

Emphasis moves to diplomacy in Gulf as UN secretary-general seeks to meet Iraqi minister

Thatcher insists no talking to tyrant

By MICHAEL KNIPE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq yesterday welcomed the prospect of a meeting with Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations secretary-general, to discuss the confrontation in the Gulf, but Margaret Thatcher dismissed the prospect of a negotiated settlement.

The prime minister said there could be no negotiations with "a dictator, a despot and a tyrant" and it was "most unlikely" that there would be a negotiated settlement to the dispute.

Mrs Thatcher was speaking soon after news emerged that a further eight British warships had been rounded up in Kuwait, bringing the total number of British warships to 147. Another eight French frigates, including two children, had also been detained. France announced that it was sending a squadron of 162 paratroopers to the United Arab Emirates, the first French ground forces deployed since the start of the Gulf confrontation.

Scholar Pérez de Cuéllar announced on Saturday that he had asked Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, to meet him for talks in New York or Geneva. While President Saddam welcomed that prospect, his ministers maintained their belligerence and a warning was issued that Iraq would attack any ships that damaged or sunk its own vessels.

contravening United Nations sanctions.

"We will sink one of their ships, maybe two, and if they attack us we will attack them," Latif Nassif al-Jassem, Iraq's information minister, said after hearing that the UN Security Council had voted to allow sanctions against Iraq to be implemented by force.

Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, said yesterday that Moscow had no plans to use force in the Gulf or join any military move approved by the UN to stop Iraq breaking sanctions. Moscow's support appeared to raise the possibility that the Soviet Union could join the blockade of Iraqi shipping being enforced by American, British and French warships. Mr Shevardnadze indicated, however, that first there would have to be another decision by the security council to set up an international force.

The efforts to promote dialogue were opened up by Kurt Waldheim, the Austrian president, who urged the West to talk to the Iraqi leader after returning from Baghdad. Dr Waldheim said President Saddam had repeatedly told him he was ready for talks. Western governments have given the Austrian leader's visit to Iraq a cool response.

At least 70 warships, mainly American, are in the Gulf region to strangle Iraqi trade and to support a multinational force in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries. The Spanish frigate Santa María and two corvettes sailed on Sunday to join them.

Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary, said in a television interview that sanctions were beginning to work and there were now "virtually no Iraqi ships" in the Gulf. However, the administration has to assess how long American will retain the political will to wait for sanctions to bite.

The US Central Command prepared to move its headquarters from MacDill Air Force Base in Florida to Saudi Arabia. It ordered F111 bombers to leave bases in Britain and fly to the Saudi Arabia to bolster its "Desert Shield" operation. About 40,000 American troops and



Desert patrol: American soldiers on a training exercise in the Saudi Arabian sands. The 40,000 US troops deployed there are finding the heat their principal enemy so far

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The heat is on for US troops

FROM NICHOLAS BEESTON WITH US FORCES IN SAUDI ARABIA

FOR T.E. Lawrence the heat from the Arabian desert was "a drawn sword" which struck him speechless. For Staff Sergeant Frederick Tipping, emerging yesterday into the Saudi Arabian midday sun from an 18-hour flight from Fort Ragg, North Carolina, the feelings were the same if the message rather less elegant. "It's hot, damn hot, too hot," he said.

The American, aged 28, had left a wife and two children to join his 90-man unit, responsible for supplying ammunition to the troops in the front line. His anti-chemical kit was causing him particular annoyance since his last foreign posting was to Johnston Atoll in the Pacific where the US has built an incinerator to destroy its chemical weapons stockpile. "I never thought we would need these things much longer," he said.

Like most of the 40,000 US troops now deployed in Saudi Arabia, Sergeant Tipping quickly discovered that the climate and not President Saddam Hussein was going to be his worst enemy. For American forces who

have served abroad in bases from Germany to Korea, the Arabian peninsula is turning out to be a rude shock. Gone are the cinemas, supermarkets and cable television which gave a home from home lifestyle for most servicemen. Here, soldiers will share tents and rudimentary latrines. Strict orders confine them to their quarters. They have to spend hours cleaning sand from their weapons and fill sandbags and dig bunkers in 120° heat.

A cold Coca-Cola, once the staple of the US fighting man is now a distant dream. What little air conditioning is available is reserved for weapon system components.

Even the MREs, Meals Ready to Eat, once the pride of US military catering, look unappealing. Peanut butter turns into liquid, chocolate bars disintegrate. The only advantage is that you no longer have to cook the main course of chili, lasagne or meatballs but just leave it in the sun for 20 minutes. When it was discovered that some of the 82nd Airborne were secretly buying hamburgers from a local fast food chain, senior officers stopped the practice before fighting broke out in their own ranks.

While morale appears to remain high, US commanders are aware that conditions will have to improve if their soldiers' stay is prolonged. At one airbase servicemen are now allowed to take out films from a video library and have been promised segregated access to a Saudi swimming pool, but not during prayer time.

Yesterday Major-General Gus Pagonis, the head of US logistics in Saudi Arabia, even promised that showers would soon be installed and that some luxury items from home would soon find their way to front-line troops.

If that is not enough, he even held out the possibility that if US forces remain in Saudi Arabia for a long period R&R, rest and recreation in the form of an air-conditioned beachside hotel, could be organised.

Keenan loath to leave McCarthy

By EDWARD GORMAN
IRISH AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

BRIAN Keenan, the Belfast-born teacher fired in Beirut on Friday after being held hostage for 4½ years by Lebanese militants, told doctors in Dublin yesterday that he had not wanted to be released if his friend and fellow captive, the British journalist John McCarthy, remained confined.

Mr Keenan, aged 39, who was met by Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, at an emotional welcoming ceremony at Dublin airport late on Friday night, also spoke for the first time about the conditions of his captivity.

According to Professor Sean Blake at the Mater private hospital in north Dublin, where Mr Keenan is resting and undergoing medical tests, he had been held blindfolded and had not known until three days before he was set free that he was to be released.

Mr Keenan told him he was held in chains for most of the time in a very small, hot and mosquito-infested basement room. It was only during the past six months that conditions, particularly his diet, had improved and his captors, who called themselves as Islamic Dawn organisation, had allowed him a little more exercise.

The freed teacher said he had known nothing of plans for his release early last month. Those plans were thought to have been dashed by an Israeli air raid on Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon.

Mr Keenan's revelations came as Mr Haughey confirmed in a radio interview that the Irish government had known for some time — thought to have been at least a week — that the release was to happen this weekend, and that Irish officials had told Mr Keenan's two sisters several days ago. Mr Haughey said it had been agreed that nothing

Continued on page 18, col 1

Keenan's return, page 5

Pakistan in rush to try Bhutto

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

HASTY preparations are under way by the military-backed interim government of Pakistan to prosecute Benazir Bhutto, the deposed prime minister, and 13 of her former cabinet ministers on charges of assassination and treason. Before the trial, the military and prosecutors are expected to be announced today.

A report published in the English-language daily Dawn disclosed that Miss Bhutto and her colleagues will shortly be tried by a special court set up by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Quoting sources close to the president, the report said that among Miss Bhutto's colleagues who would be tried are Aitzaz Ahsan, former home minister, Jehangir Badar, former minister for petroleum, Faisal Saleh Hayat, former commerce minister, and Ahsan ul-Haq Piracha, former finance minister for state. Sources at the secretariat of Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the

caretaker prime minister, confirmed the report.

Roshid Khan, federal minister in charge of special investigations, said preparations were being geared up to finish the process before polls in October 24. Mr Khan is expected to announce trial procedures today.

"Mr Jatoi told reporters over the weekend that a process of accountability would not affect the election schedule.

Miss Bhutto has stated her refusal to appear before any special court set by the caretaker government. "We do not accept any tribunal nor do we have any intention to appear before it," she told journalists in Sialkot in Sindh province. She said the process of accountability has been initiated to keep her party out of the electoral process.

She added that the central committee of her Pakistan People's party will consider further action after receiving notice to appear before the tribunal.

INSIDE

Briton dies in lake disaster

A British woman died and three others were feared drowned when a motor cruiser capsized on a lake in central Taiwan. Of the 88 people on board, 54 were drowned or were missing, feared dead.

The boat was taking employees of Shell and their families on a "moon-gazing" cruise. Police said the boat was overloaded and arrested the owner on charges of manslaughter and negligence of duty. Page 18

Rural eyesores

The exemption of farmland from normal planning regulations should be ended because many farmers are disfiguring the countryside, says a report from the Council for the Protection of Rural England. Page 6

Derby victory

Derbyshire won the Refuge Assurance Sunday cricket league on the last day of the league season, beating Essex by five wickets. Page 19

Senna wins

Ayrton Senna, the Brazilian driver, celebrated his signing a new contract with McLaren by winning the Belgian Grand Prix. Page 20

Teaching aid

After two years of planning the Open Polytechnic will appear this week to produce teaching and learning materials. Page 29

Degree places

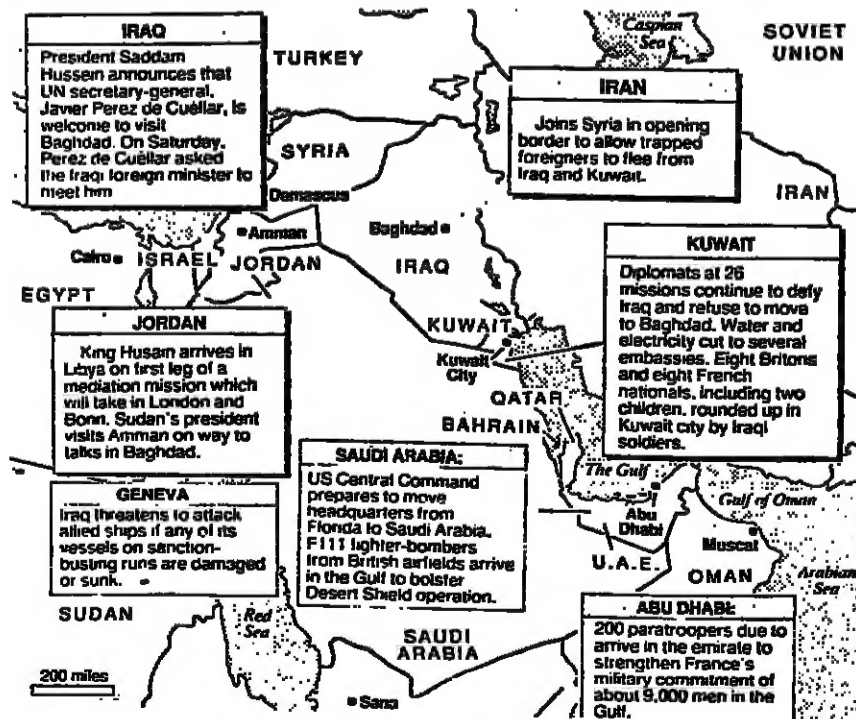
A full list of vacancies remaining for degree courses at universities and colleges is published today. A list of vacancies in humanities and social sciences will be published tomorrow. Pages 31-34

• Degrees awarded by Glasgow university are published today. Page 34

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OS



Crippen's last defiant messages of hope

By JOHN SHAW



Dr Crippen: letters from his cell in 1910

NINE letters sent by Dr Crippen to the aristocrat he regarded as his providential angel show that the celebrated murderer had high hopes of reprieve right up until his death. The letters, written from the cells during and after his trial at the Old Bailey in 1910, were sent to Lady Somerset, a society woman who was not only convinced of Crippen's innocence but sympathised with him over his enforced separation from Ethel le Neve, his mistress.

The Crippen case was sensational in its day because he was the first murderer to be traced and captured by radio. Crippen and le Neve, who was disguised as a boy, were arrested after a chase across the north Atlantic en route to a new life in Canada. He was hanged for poisoning his wife Cora, whom he had married four years before meeting Ethel.

The letters are to be sold at Christie's, South Kensington, next month. Edmund Pollinger, an expert in the book department at Christie's, said the correspondence, which is being sold anonymously, is still in good condition. It is estimated to fetch up to £2,500 at the sale on September 14.

There was no doubt he was head over heels about his girlfriend Ethel. Mr Pollinger said: "She looked very impressive in the dock and he asked Lady Somerset to buy her clothes to keep up appearances during the trial. He was absolutely convinced she would be acquitted. These letters were the last things he ever wrote. They are a remarkable survival from a famous case."

Amid the publicity of the trial Lady Somerset offered the couple friendship and help. In eight letters from Brixton prison before conviction, Crippen was confident of his acquittal and writes of plans to take up Lady Somerset's offer of hospitality. Although containing numerous asides about prison life and the daily routine, a constant theme is his concern for Ethel: "I do not think anyone could know of my agonies of mind about Ethel and how it seemed to me an angel had been sent to help me when you wrote so kindly offering your friendship and comfort to her."

His last letter, written after his conviction, expresses huge relief at Ethel's acquittal and goes on to discuss his own appeal. It shows that right to the end he believed things would turn in his favour. The note, from Pentonville shortly before he was hanged on November 23, concludes in a ten-word postscript: "I am still hopeful and all may yet come right."

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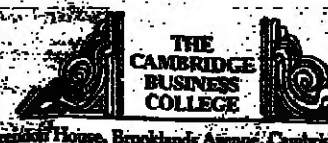


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THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE

Diplomatic triumph puts Bush's long-term strategy in focus

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON AND MICHAEL EVANS

A WEEK ago President Bush donned a military hat and gave a stirring speech to war veterans laced with the language of a nation contemplating war. Now, the immediate threat of a military confrontation between Iraq and US forces has receded and attention shifts towards a UN embargo as the world's best hope of squeezing President Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait.

Mr Bush, plagued by White House press corps criticism for playing golf on his summer holiday, kept away from television cameras. His press secretary simply issued a 100-word statement welcoming a historic vote on Saturday by the Security Council to authorise force to stop violations of the trade embargo against Iraq.

The 13-0 vote was a significant diplomatic victory for Washington. Consistent with efforts over the past week to emphasise the international nature of attempts to achieve Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, the White House pledged its "complete support of the United Nations action".

In the view of many in Washington, Mr Bush is now forced to determine a long-term strategy,

founded either on pressure on Iraq through the embargo or on efforts to seek a diplomatic solution. By late yesterday, the surrounding of foreign embassies in Kuwait City by Iraqi forces had not provided the first flashpoint some people believed could provoke hostilities. With world opinion behind him in the form of the UN vote, Mr Bush now faces the pressures of opinion at home. A prolonged hostage confrontation, relayed in emotional detail by the US media, could dent America's strong support for military action against Iraq.

So far, the administration appears to rule out, as a likely starting point for hostilities, the US disabling of an Iraqi tanker that attempts to flout the UN-imposed blockade. The US public, despite overwhelming support for military action in the Gulf, seems unlikely to back a military strike unless Iraq attacks Saudi Arabia or its oil fields, or harms US hostages.

The Bush administration has emphasised it regards President Saddam's position as weakening militarily and diplomatically.

The prevailing view among some influential commentators in Washington is that Mr Bush has

learnt enough from the experience of former presidents weighed down by hostage crises to risk perhaps hundreds of US casualties by striking against Iraq if provoked.

Some reports have tried to make much of the recent absence of James Baker, the US Secretary of State, from the public eye while he takes a summer holiday in Wyoming, prompting rumours that he does not have the backing of his close friend and fellow Texan. "He is cautious and prefers to see local initiative," acknowledged one State Department official. "But it's also an agreement that (Richard) Cheney (the US Defence Secretary) will be up front on the military stuff and Baker will be there on diplomacy."

Behind the scenes, Mr Baker has spoken regularly to his British and Soviet counterparts, Douglas Hurd and Eduard Shevardnadze, and advised the Bush administration on the legal aspects of implementing the UN blockade.

The American military build-up is now said to have passed "threshold A" — the point at which forces on the ground would be able to repel an attack on Saudi Arabia by Iraqi armoured divisions. With only about 40,000 American

combat troops in the kingdom, the US will not be ready for "threshold B" — the point at which troops could launch an attack — until the extra 60,000 on the way have arrived and, in particular, until about 300 M1 Abrams battle tanks have been unloaded from the ships on their way from Diego Garcia and from the United States. It could be another two weeks before the full complement has arrived.

In spite of the conviction that air power will win the day for the Americans, an offensive against the Iraqis, who have the advantage in terms of tanks and manpower, cannot be sustained solely by bombing raids, even if the precision attacks were as successful as the Pentagon hawks clearly anticipate. There will have to be enough armour and troops on the ground to counter offensive sweeps by the Iraqi Republican Guards divisions. This means waiting for the arrival of the US 24th Infantry Division (Mechanised) from Fort Stewart in Georgia. The first elements are already in Saudi Arabia but they went by air. The rest are coming by sea.

Although this is the reality of the military

position facing Mr Bush, the bullish tone adopted by the Pentagon hawks serves at least to sharpen the propaganda campaign against the Iraqi leader. Two of the US ships in the Gulf area, the battleship USS Wisconsin and the guided missile cruiser USS Anietam, are armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles. These weapons, each costing \$1.3 million (£670,000), are highly accurate for specific targets. They have to be programmed with precise targeting information from previously photographed terrain before they can be fired. The suggestion that the Americans have a cruise missile targeted on President Saddam's palace in Baghdad presumably has more to do with propaganda than reality, especially since the Iraqi leader spends most of his time in an apparently nuclear bomb-proof bunker on the outskirts of Baghdad.

The same F111 fighter wing sent to Libya has now been deployed to the Gulf, providing further evidence that the potential for launching strikes on targets in Iraq is being gradually increased. Twenty-four F111s from the 48th Tactical Fighter Wing, based at Lakenheath in Suffolk, have arrived in the Gulf region.

Thatcher does not see a negotiated end to conflict with Saddam

By MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

AS THE number of British hostages seized by Iraq in Kuwait rose to 147 yesterday, Margaret Thatcher made it clear that she did not expect a peaceful end to the conflict with the Baghdad government of President Saddam.

In an interview with BBC television, she said that it was "most unlikely" that there would be a negotiated settlement to the Gulf conflict.

"The United Nations has said he must totally withdraw from Kuwait and the legitimate government be restored. I doubt very much he will do that," she said as she left a church service near Chequers. "There will be no negotiations with a man who takes over, by force, someone else's country except that he gets out completely."

"You are dealing with a dictator who is an absolute tyrant, who has had a callous charade on TV with children, and who has not hesitated to use chemical weapons against innocent people."

"This man is a despot and a tyrant and must be stopped," Mrs Thatcher added.

William Waldegrave also dis-

missed the prospect of negotiating with the Iraqi leader until he withdrew his forces from Kuwait. Any attempt to do so, he said, would end up with a whole range of half-baked, meaningless initiatives which are alleged by his side to be peace initiatives.

Mr Waldegrave said he hoped that if there was a meeting between the Iraqi leader and Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, it would bring home to the Iraqi leader that the secretary-general was not free to broker separate deals.

"If Iraq thinks that there is any room for manoeuvre on that they will be wrong. And that is what Mr Pérez de Cuéllar will be doing and I think that will be very helpful in clarifying the reality for Saddam Hussein, because one sometimes doubts whether he really understands the reality."

Mr Waldegrave said he hoped the question of the hostages could be settled separately. All the world's humanitarian organisations were now working on that.

Eight more British citizens were rounded up by the Iraqi military

in Kuwait on Saturday. This followed the seizure of two British couples, including a heavily pregnant woman and her husband on Friday night. They were all being held at what the Foreign Office called "civilian establishments" in Kuwait City.

At Britain's besieged embassy in Kuwait, Michael Weston, the ambassador, and his three-strong diplomatic team remained without electricity or telephones. Iraqi troops, armed with machineguns and mortars, were posted outside with orders not to allow anyone to enter or leave the compound.

Asked whether the fact that the Iraqis had not acted to evict them might indicate that they might be trying to pull back from the risk of confrontation, Mr Waldegrave said it was difficult to say whether they were playing a cat and mouse game or whether they were in a muddle.

"They keep changing their mind. And they may now have decided to sit there and see what happens and let us run out of food and fuel which will take some time. But it is difficult to know."

Azmi Shafiq al-Salhi, the Iraqi ambassador to London, denied a suggestion that the Iraqis wanted a confrontation at the embassies. Interviewed on BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend* programme, he said: "It is not a matter of confrontation. Rather, it is a matter of sovereignty. By this I mean Kuwait is part of Iraq and each country can only have one embassy to represent it in Iraq."

Dr al-Salhi, asked about last week's Iraqi broadcast in which President Saddam was seen with hostages, including a five-year-old British boy, said it was a "humanitarian touch".

The broadcast provoked outrage in Britain with Mrs Thatcher saying she reacted with "revulsion" and opposition politicians describing it as "obscene".

But the ambassador said: "To be frank, it seems to me that here events are described contrary to the truth. Thus this humanitarian touch has been described far from its real objective." He added that he had received many letters from the public supporting Iraq and "they were happy with this humanitarian touch". He offered to display the letters.

On Consul expelled: The government has asked Yemen to reconsider its expulsion of Douglas Gordon, the British consul-general in Aden, who has been given until midday today to leave. Mr Gordon was asked to depart within 48 hours after Yemen accused him on Saturday of "activities incompatible with his diplomatic status."

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WHITEHALL

Prime minister leads top-level teams monitoring events

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WITH senior ministers and officials returning from holidays, the Whitehall machine is now fully operational in preparing Britain's day-to-day response to the confrontation in the Gulf.

A series of committees, comprising ministers and officials, meet almost every morning to deal with difficulties arising from the emergency through the daily handling of events is left to a Foreign Office unit.

The prime minister and four senior colleagues are in overall charge of Britain's reaction to events in the Gulf, though 10 Downing Street denies that this ministerial group is a "war cabinet" similar to the one that operated during the Falklands campaign. Downing Street and Whitehall sources have repeatedly emphasised that the flare-up in the Gulf is not the same as the Falklands, since then Britain was alone while now the country is part of an international effort to end Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

So far none of the divisions that erupted in Whitehall and Westminster at the time of the Falklands have emerged publicly, but few politicians expect that this uneasy calm could outlast the outbreak of hostilities.

The key political team handling Britain's response has been drawn from the larger overseas and defence committee which met on August 8 and decided to send air and naval forces to the Gulf. This smaller team of ministers, which met almost every day last week, is chaired by Mrs Thatcher and includes Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, Tom King, the defence secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, Attorney-General, and John Wakeham, energy secretary.

Sir Patrick attends the meetings because he advises on the legal ramifications under the UN Charter of Britain's involvement in enforcing the trade blockade. Mr Wakeham's place in the team is due to his ministerial responsibility for oil and also because he is one of the prime minister's most trusted and shrewdest colleagues who has overall responsibility for government information.

Backbench MPs have noted the absence of Sir Geoffrey Howe, the deputy prime minister, Kenneth Baker, chairman of the Conservative party, and Cecil Parkinson, transport secretary and a member of the Falklands "war cabinet", from the team.

At 10 Downing Street, the prime minister is provided with support by Charles Powell, her foreign affairs private secretary, and Sir Percy Cradock, foreign affairs adviser to the prime minister. Sir Robin Butler, cabinet secretary,

also plays a central role in ensuring co-ordination. Under the top ministerial committee is a second grouping of ministers and officials which is usually chaired by Mr Hurd and in his absence by William Waldegrave, minister of state at the Foreign Office. This inter-departmental committee, consisting of ministers and officials, meets every morning to pool information. It includes representatives from the Foreign Office, defence ministry, and departments of trade and industry, and transport. Representatives from the Home Office, responsible for Iraqis in Britain, and the education department, monitoring Iraqi students in this country, have also attended on an *ad hoc* basis.

The day-to-day handling of the emergency is being dealt with by a Foreign Office emergency unit operating 24 hours a day from the basement of the Foreign Office's main building in Whitehall. A team of officials has been put together under the leadership of Roger Tomkies, a deputy under secretary at the Foreign Office.



Sailors on the French aircraft carrier Clemenceau off Djibouti, at the southern tip of the Red Sea, are standing by for orders. Jean-Pierre Chevenement, the defence minister, visiting the carrier at the weekend, said: "The Clemenceau will be ready to leave in a few days for the Gulf,

but it should not be passing through the Strait of Hormuz" (Susan MacDonald writes). President Mitterrand has called an extraordinary session of the French parliament today to debate events in the Gulf. Michel Rocard, the prime minister, will address the National Assembly



Power of prayer: President Saddam after his discussions with President Waldheim of Austria in Baghdad at the weekend

UNITED NATIONS

Week of hard bargaining sets post-Cold War ground rules

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A WEEK ago today America summoned the Security Council into emergency session to adopt a resolution approving the use of "such minimum force as may be necessary" to stop ships breaking the UN embargo against Iraq.

That meeting was almost, in the words of one diplomat from a US ally, "a total disaster". Breaking ranks with the other five permanent members of the security council, the Americans decided to force the pace to get UN authority to stop an Iraqi tanker heading towards Yemeni territorial waters.

Only an assurance from Yemen that it would not unload the tanker, the *Baba Gurgur*, enabled the Americans to avoid a diplomatic debacle. Neither the Soviet Union nor China was ready

to vote by the US-imposed deadline, nor were most of the other 10 members of the security council. Britain would have voted with the Americans, but still preferred to wait for consensus.

In the early hours of Saturday, the security council did approve a resolution allowing foreign navies to intercept Iraqi shipping. The wording authorised navies to "use such measures commensurate with the circumstances as may be necessary". But this time, the security council voted overwhelmingly in its favour.

A week of hard bargaining had established widely acceptable ground rules for international action. It is a week that had changed the world, by beginning to define the structure of the international system in the post-Cold War world.

Behind the apparently minor semantic differences over wording were key differences between the world's greatest powers over who should police the globe now that superpower tensions have eased.

The United States, eager to assert its role as world leader, sought swift UN authority for unilateral action — the kind of *carte blanche* it received in Korea in 1950 when the security council voted in the absence of the Soviet Union to place it in the command of a UN operation.

The Soviet Union, seeking to redefine its place in the world, wanted as much UN control of the operation as possible, partly to rein in the Americans and partly to establish the United Nations in its intended role as an impartial world government, one of the cornerstones of Mr Gorbachev's "new thinking".

Ironically, Britain, one of America's staunchest allies, often found itself sympathetic to the Soviet point of view. A second-rank power like France, Britain stood to gain as a veto-bearing permanent member of the security council if the role of the United Nations were enhanced. China pursued its traditionally isolationist policy of avoiding confrontation.

After the Yemeni assurance that it would comply with the UN embargo, the five powers met with renewed urgency at the French diplomatic mission in the section of midtown Manhattan known as

BAGHDAD

'If they attack us ... we will sink one or two of their ships'

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

BAGHDAD has vowed to attack ships enforcing the blockade on Iraqi trade if one of its vessels is damaged or sunk. "If they attack us, we will attack them and sink one or two of their ships," warned Latif Nassif al-Jasem, the minister of culture and information, after the UN security council voted to enforce sanctions.

He ruled out retaliatory strikes against ships heading to oil terminals in Saudi Arabia, even though the country was hosting most of the US-led multinational forces. But, in a veiled threat, Mr al-Jasem added that Saudi oilfields could be damaged if there was a confrontation between Iraq and the international fleet.

The warning increased tension in the Gulf, where US warships last night were stalking a dozen Iraqi tankers. Last week two Iraqi tankers sailed on after US ships fired shots across their bows.

But the US believes that Saturday's UN resolution gives it a mandate to disable Iraqi tankers if they defy the blockade in this way. They would do this by torpedoing the tankers. Sinking an Iraqi tanker would not only increase the risk of all-out war, but could lose support for the US in some parts of the Arab world; it could also cause a large oil slick if the tanker were loaded when struck.

Iraq accidentally attacked an American warship during the Gulf war, killing 37 sailors and underlining the vulnerability of even the most sophisticated fleets.

At least 70 warships, mostly American, are in the international fleet. Iraq's air force has 500 combat planes, mostly Soviet

MiGs and French Mirages. Baghdad has also threatened suicide attacks on American warships.

Mr al-Jasem poured scorn on a report in the *Sunday Times* that cruise missiles were aimed at President Saddam's headquarters. The Iraqi president, he said, "neither has palaces nor is he a lover of riches and headquarters at the expense of the people... The homes of all the Iraqis are his permanent residences."

NEW YORK: THE UN secretary-general, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, vested with the new-found authority of the United Nations, at the weekend launched a personal initiative "to avoid armed conflict" in the Gulf (James Bone writes).

Describing Saturday's vote authorising naval action against Iraqi shipping as without precedent, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar invited the Iraqi foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, to "urgent" talks this week in New York or Geneva. The talks would allow a full exchange of views, he said.

President Saddam said in Baghdad that the secretary-general was "always welcome" to visit him in Iraq.

The UN leader is hoping to use the personal relationship with Mr Aziz formed during six years of talks on the Iran-Iraq war to bring Iraq into line with the five security council resolutions passed since its invasion of Kuwait.

But he will have to overcome Baghdad's very public animosity to the security council, which Mr Aziz described after Saturday's 13-0 vote as a "tool for America's aggressive and unjust policy".

DUBLIN

Blockade sets empire of beef baron at risk

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Irish government, in an attempt to alleviate the difficulties in its beef industry caused by the Gulf confrontation and UN sanctions, is to break the EC embargo on ministerial visits to Tehran imposed after the Rushdie affair.

Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, said in Dublin yesterday that the EC had given its approval for a visit by Michael O'Kennedy, the agriculture minister, who will try to clinch a beef deal worth £100 million to help to offset the sudden loss of export earnings to Iraq.

"It has been agreed that this visit can take place," Mr Haughey said. "The cattle and beef industry here is facing a very critical time. One major breakthrough is to get a major beef contract to supply beef to Iran. That will take some of the pressure off the situation."

Bahram Ghasseini, the Iranian ambassador to Ireland whom Mr Haughey praised for his efforts to secure the freedom of Brian Keenan, said that the delegation had a good chance.

The Irish beef industry has been hit hard by the Gulf confrontation. By far the worst hit is the beef baron Larry Goodman, who holds 40 per cent of the Irish market and whose privately owned Goodman International is believed to have been brought close to receivership.

A special session of parliament is being convened by Mr Haughey on Tuesday at which emergency legislation will be introduced. Debate is expected to deal almost exclusively, however, with Mr Goodman's problems.

The severity of the crisis emerged on Wednesday with rumours that receivers were moving in. Goodman International said it was "in discussion with its bankers" because of "the current situation... and the imposition of UN sanctions against Iraq."

Iraq is believed to owe Goodman International about £200 million for beef shipped over the last three years. This year it had agreed to supply £45 million in meat to Baghdad, but thousands of tons are in freezer ships in the Mediterranean unable to deliver because of the UN blockade.

THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: THE MIDDLE EAST

Arab allies of Baghdad in last-ditch bid to avert war

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

ARAB leaders sympathetic to Iraq were involved in a hectic round of shuttle diplomacy yesterday in a last-ditch attempt to avert a war in the Gulf.

King Hussein of Jordan left for Libya on the first step of a North African tour that will take him to Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritania. He is expected to go on to London and Bonn.

The king returned empty-handed from the United States recently, having failed to persuade President Bush to withdraw US forces from the Gulf in return for a simultaneous Iraqi pull-out from Kuwait. It was not clear if President Saddam Hussein had agreed to the initiative, but Arab diplomats said Iraq would not allow the return of the Kuwaiti emir.

Other Arab states involved in seeking a political end to the emergency include Sudan, Libya, and Yemen, together with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

They maintain Iraq is committed to a peaceful solution, but observers said their standing as intermediaries has been diminished by their support for Baghdad, and reports that Libya may be smuggling chemical weapons to Iraq and that Sudan and Yemen have given bases to Iraqi jet fighters.

Omar al-Bashir, the Sudanese

leader, and two Libyan envoys flew to Baghdad last night after talks in Jordan. "We are moving in an attempt to pluck out the fuse of war because war would be destructive due to the kinds and quantities of weapons," Mr Bashir told Jordanian television.

He was accompanied by Mustafa al-Kharouni, a senior aide to Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, who last week condemned both Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the multinational forces in the Gulf. They held 90 minutes of talks with Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan and with Mudar Badran, the Jordanian prime minister.

Prince Hassan insisted there could be an Arab solution to the problem if the West listens sympathetically. "There has been a positive response on the part of Baghdad which effectively is seeking to negotiate. I think this appeal could be heard more clearly in many capitals of the world," he said, referring to Washington and London.

Egypt, which was the first Arab state to send forces to the Gulf in defence of Saudi Arabia, has called an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo on Thursday. President Assad of Syria was due to arrive in Alexandria yesterday morning for talks with President Mubarak of Egypt, but did not turn up and no reason was given.

His last visit to Egypt was in July and it formally ended a rift triggered by Egypt's Camp David peace accord with Israel. Syria has recently moved closer to the Arab mainstream by taking a high-profile role in the release of Western hostages held in the Middle East, and amazed observers by dispatching troops to join the multinational forces.

● JERUSALEM: Israeli press reports yesterday said that President Saddam's next surprise move could be to propose a union between Iraq and Jordan. Reports describe this as "an offer King Hussein cannot refuse" (Richard Owen writes).

Quoting intelligence assessments, Israeli newspapers said that such a union need not, in the first instance, require Iraqi armed forces to enter Jordan, so Iraq would not cross the "red line" laid down by Israel. Israeli leaders have said repeatedly that Israel would regard Iraqi troops in Jordan as a reason for war.

But Israeli officials said that, if President Saddam did make such a proposal, Israel believed King Hussein would resist it strongly. "The king has clearly reached understandings with Washington which, despite his rhetoric, place him more or less on the Western side," one Israeli official said. The Israeli view is that regional stability is best served by the survival of the Hashemite monarchy in Jordan.

Letters, page 11



Father Taylor talking to Filipino refugees living in a tent on his roof in Amman. As the flood of homeless continues, food supplies are being stretched to the limit

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER

PERCHED inconspicuously on the stone roof of the modest residence of Father William Taylor, the Anglican chaplain of Jordan, is a green bedouin-style tent complete with sleeping bags and water container, for the past week home to 50 or more Filipino refugees.

"It is a sign that Amman is bursting at the seams that we have to provide this sort of shelter," Father Taylor, a former assistant to the Archbishop of Canterbury, said. "We are facing a refugee crisis of major proportions, but the world has been late in waking up to it."

While the media's attention has been concentrated on the flood of penniless Egyptians who are fleeing from Iraq and Kuwait, Amman is now playing host to at least 35,000 refugees from other Third World countries whose governments are often too poor to organise their exit.

The Asian and Arab (other than Egyptian) refugees are sleeping in requisitioned churches, mosques and union halls, and 10,000 of them are packed into the Amman International Centre, the country's biggest car showroom.

Slow awakening by West as Jordan wrestles with refugee nightmare

"This country's already limited resources have been stretched beyond the limit. Things are very finely balanced," said Father Taylor, aged 32, referring to diplomatic language to the chance of rioting between Jordanians and refugees over food.

"Rice and sugar are in very short supply because of the war fever," he said. "If the refugees keep on pouring in in vast numbers, this could pose a serious problem. At present there is just enough to feed them, but that situation may not last. The next weeks will be critical."

The problem of the Third World refugees is visible in many parts of Jordan's hilly capital, where tent encampments and people sleeping rough in embassy gardens are easily spotted.

The Egyptians, who form by far the largest proportion of the refugee exodus through Jordan — now well above 200,000 — are prohibited from entering the cap-

ital for fear of clashes with the locals. "They treat us like dirt," one young Egyptian lawyer from Kuwait complained. "We are given insufficient food and water and even if there are some of us who have money, we are forbidden to enter Amman where we might have the chance of buying something. Instead they force us in convoys down the desert highway straight to Aqaba on the Red Sea."

The enormity of the problem is only now beginning to dawn on a world which until recently had been concentrated on the fate of the foreigners still inside Kuwait and Iraq, rather than on the plight of the tens of thousands of people who have succeeded in escaping, normally penniless and with few possessions.

"As word gets around that the border is open to Arabs and Asians, the problem in Jordan could get very much worse," Father Taylor said. Jordanian

officials claim that they can allow 20,000 people a day to cross the border at Ruweishid in the east.

Most churches and Islamic organisations in Amman have joined forces in an *ad hoc* fashion to alleviate the suffering. But the use of schools as temporary dormitories ended on Saturday when one million children returned for the new term.

Some 800 more Filipinos were due in Amman yesterday, many of whom are likely to spend days or weeks here before aircraft can be found to take them home. Other races include Pakistanis, Indians, Yemenis, Sudanese and Bangladeshis. Most were employed in service industries or as household staff.

Sri Lankans, who make up a high proportion of those arriving from Iraq and Kuwait, are a special case because of the civil war at home. "This has meant that many refuse to go back," Father Taylor said. "There are

also dangerous frictions between the Tamil and Sinhala elements." Medicines, tents, water purification equipment, food and cash began arriving at the weekend. The British government has provided £500,000.

As well as many harrowing personal experiences, the Asian and Arab refugees, whose number could total 100,000 by the end of the week, also face a bleak future without jobs in their home countries once they eventually succeed in getting there.

Father Taylor and other leading churchmen have formed an evacuee emergency relief committee which is struggling to cope with the problem. "We are working from hour to hour," he said. "The situation is changing all the time and no one has the exact figures to facilitate advance planning."

Jordan, which has considerable financial problems, has already spent an estimated £6 million on providing accommodation and transport. Much more will be needed in the coming weeks if another disaster is to be averted for those men, women and children rapidly turning the Hashemite kingdom into one of the world's biggest transit camps.

YEMEN

Diplomats baffled by stance over sanctions

YEMEN has baffled the diplomatic community by stridently insisting at the United Nations in New York that it would comply with sanctions against its ally, Iraq, while at home visibly refusing to do so (Michael Theodoulou writes from Nicosia).

Upset at being caught out, it has ordered home a British diplomat who watched an Iraqi tanker unloading at the port of Aden last week. Douglas Gordon, the British consul-general in Sanaa, was given 48 hours to leave on Saturday because Yemen said he was involved in activities "incompatible with his mission". Yemen's role as a potential sanctions-buster has been marginalised by Saturday's security council resolution giving the US a mandate to block forcibly trade with Iraq.

On Friday, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said an Iraqi tanker, the Ain Zahab, had unloaded oil at Aden. It was the first tanker to slip through the blockade. A Foreign Office spokesman said Mr Gordon had "naturally been observing tanker movements in Aden harbour, like many others", but denied he was involved in any activity "incompatible with his status".

Officials in Yemen said Mr Gordon had used binoculars and taken photographs of the Aden refinery and of military sites from a hill overlooking the strategic strait of Bab al-Mandab at the mouth of the Red Sea.

Despite Yemeni denials, sources said Iraqi planes were in Sanaa on Friday to fly food to Baghdad. More alarming were Egyptian military sources that Iraq flew fighter jets to Yemen and Sudan last week as a strategic reserve in case US planes destroyed Iraqi air bases. There were unconfirmed reports that 12 Kuwaiti fighter jets, seized during the invasion, were parked at the airport in Yemen's capital.

There have been big pro-Iraqi and anti-American demonstrations on the streets of Sanaa and Aden and the president, General Ali Abdullah Saleh, delivered fiery speeches in support of President Saddam after the first US forces arrived in the Gulf.

Enforcing the embargo on Iraq would hurt Yemen's economy. Iraq and Kuwait were two of the best customers at the Aden refinery. But Yemen is also dependent to a degree on aid from Saudi Arabia and remittances from hundreds of thousands of its workers there.

SAUDI ARABIA

Threat from Iraqi missiles 'minimal'

From NICHOLAS BEESTON IN SAUDI ARABIA

IRAQ's batteries of Scud-B missiles, considered one of the most formidable weapons in President Saddam's arsenal, pose only a minimal threat to the American and British forces based in Saudi Arabia, according to US air defence officials.

It had been feared that the large but outdated surface-to-surface missile, which caused such havoc when fired at Iranian cities during the Gulf war, could be fitted with

chemical warheads and used with devastating effect on civilian and military targets in Saudi Arabia.

The change in attitude is largely due to the arrival of the Patriot missile, the most sophisticated anti-aircraft and anti-missile weapon in the US armoury. An inspection this weekend of the US Army's 7th Air Defence Artillery, revealed that the weapon is now deployed around key

installations used by American, British and Saudi forces. The radar-guided Patriot, which consists of a sealed launcher containing four missiles, was first deployed five years ago by American forces in Germany.

Captain Joseph Danton, battery commander in charge of four launchers, said that during live firing exercises against missiles similar to the Scud, the Patriot had a hit rate of 100 per cent. "I feel very confident that our system is capable of stopping the Scuds before they reach their target," he said.

It is estimated that it will take six to nine minutes from the time a Scud is fired in Iraq or Kuwait before it reaches its target in Saudi Arabia. However, with the satellite intelligence and airborne reconnaissance now in place, the American forces believe they will know when Iraq plans to use the Scuds before they have even been fired.

US spy satellites currently positioned over Iraq and Kuwait kept a constant watch over the movement of the missiles and the activities of their crews. The Scud's highly unstable liquid rocket fuel has to be stored away from the launching site and loaded not more than 24 hours before being fired, giving American forces time for a pre-emptive strike.

If the missile is fired, F15 fighters on constant patrol along the Saudi border would be able to intercept the relatively slow projectile and shoot it down with air-to-air missiles.

If this fails, then one or several Patriot missiles with the range of 35 miles would then be fired. ● RAF problem: Oman's military came to the rescue when more than 300 RAF personnel faced

living under the desert sun in heavy canvas tents more suited to the Arctic (The Press Association reports).

The Jaguar detachment — mostly from RAF Coltishall, Norfolk — were ready to put up their own "tent city" on arrival at Thumrait as part of the multinational effort in the Gulf region, an RAF press officer reported from Oman.

But the first to arrive discovered the tents they had brought were unsuitable for the heat and flat winds of the Oman *bahda* or flat deserts.

They also found that below the thin layer of surface sand was bedrock which no tent peg could penetrate. Faced with the arrival of hundreds more personnel over the next few days, Wing Commander Jerry Connolly and Squadron Leader Terry Lloyd met Thumrait's station commander and persuaded him to allow their men to remain in the barracks blocks, where they had been temporarily housed.

And as more of the detachment arrived, so the Omanis gave up more of their own accommodation for the RAF. Wing Commander Connolly said: "The Omanis — and the station commander in particular — were absolutely marvellous from the word go."

"At Thumrait we are hit night and day by very high winds from the south, which with the 35°C heat from 9am to 5pm each day, would soon have made life intolerable, even assuming we could have got the tents up," Wing Commander Connolly added.

Under US military rules The Times is not allowed to identify the location of the missiles site.

Iran opens border to aid escapers

IRAN yesterday opened its 750-mile border with Iraq to facilitate the escape of foreigners trapped in Iraq and Kuwait. Tehran radio quoted Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister, as saying the decision was based on "humanitarian considerations" (Juan Carlos Gumucio writes from Dubai).

Reports from Tehran said that several cars carrying Indians and Pakistanis had already been allowed into Iran and that thousands of others were expected to follow soon. IRNA, Iran's official news agency, said that some 50,000 Iranian residents of Kuwait had returned home in the past days.

Dr Velayati spoke after a meeting with Raul Manglapus, the Philippines foreign minister, who travelled to Tehran to ask for help in repatriating nearly 50,000 Filipinos from Iraq and Kuwait.

More favour 'assassination'

New York — Forty-three per cent of Americans favour the idea of assassinating President Saddam, but 80 per cent are opposed to a quick US attack on Iraqi positions, according to a *Newsweek* poll released on Saturday.

Support for assassination was up from 34 per cent in a similar poll taken a fortnight ago, a week after Iraq invaded Kuwait. US law forbids American involvement in assassinations. (AFP)

Iraq frees PoWs

Baghdad — Iraq said yesterday it had sent home all registered Iranian prisoners of war and asked the International Committee of the Red Cross to list those not previously counted. By late Saturday, Baghdad and Tehran had each freed 16,000 prisoners. The Red Cross says there were about 20,000 PoWs registered in Iraq and 50,000 registered in Iran. The United Nations estimates another 10,000 PoWs might be held by Iraq and 20,000 by Iran. (Reuters)

Missile denial

Moscow — Soviet military leaders have denied giving the Americans secrets of Iraq's Moscow-supplied missile systems, the Soviet daily *Izvestia* said yesterday. It acknowledged that a military attaché talked with the US defence department during the American arms build-up in the Gulf. But the attaché, General G. Yakovlev, had only given information on Iraq that had already been published, *Izvestia* said, quoting Soviet defence ministry officials. (Reuters)

WEST BANK

Painful economic shock for Saddam's Palestinian admirers

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

UNTIL the Gulf crisis erupted, Ali was earning good money in Kuwait and sending most of his income home to his family at Jalazouna refugee camp on the West Bank. Now he sits in the small shack at the camp which his family calls home, wondering what they will live on.

The modest hut is a welcome refuge from the heat, the dust and the watchful eye of the Israeli patrols above the valley in which the rundown camp is set. Water trickles in the background as Ali's mother prepares a meal. But money is running out to feed herself, her three younger sons and an assortment of relatives.

"I left here to go to Kuwait to get rich," Ali says, turning his worry beads in his

hands. "Now I am back where I started, and I am still poor."

His story is echoed in refugee camps from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip. Although the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Palestinian leadership in the occupied territories have supported President Saddam, and many ordinary Palestinians have hailed the Iraqi leader as a hero who will liberate Palestine, the reality is that for many Palestinians Iraq's invasion of Kuwait is an economic disaster. As this begins to sink in, some Palestinian leaders are beginning to reconsider their initial enthusiastic support for Baghdad and to adopt a more balanced position.

They now condemn the acquisition of territory by force while also calling for a US withdrawal from Saudi Arabia and an

overall Middle East settlement which would resolve not only Iraq's claims to Kuwait but also the status of the West Bank. Graffiti on West Bank walls reflect an emerging battle between those who hold to the original pro-Saddam line and those who have doubts.

Concern over the sudden drying up of Kuwaiti funds is felt most keenly in east Jerusalem, where several key Palestinian institutions had been kept afloat by Kuwaiti oil money — proof that the Palestinian claim that "Kuwait did nothing for us" is untrue. On the Mount of Olives there is despair among doctors at the Mokassed hospital, where many *unifada* injuries have been treated. "Seventy per cent of our salaries came from Kuwait," one doctor said. "This hospital received \$1 million (£515,000) a month from the

Kuwaitis. Who will pay us now?"

At the Abu Dis College of Technology, part of the Arab University of Jerusalem, Professor Mohammed Kutub, the director, remains defiant. "Our people support Saddam Hussein," he said. "Palestine needs liberators as well as donors." None the less, the college faces financial collapse as the Kuwaiti money runs out. Arab-run hospitals in Nablus and Gaza City face severe cuts, perhaps even closure.

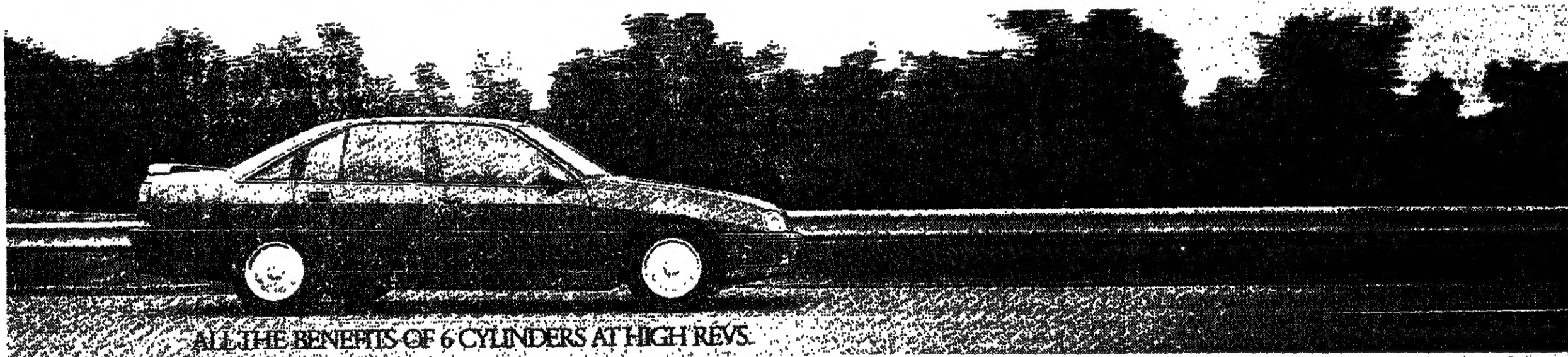
The effect on ordinary families could be no less drastic. A quarter of a million Palestinians worked in the Gulf, more than 30,000 of them from the occupied territories.

Israeli officials say that some \$140 million a year flowed into the occupied territories from Palestinian migrant workers in Kuwait, with roughly the same

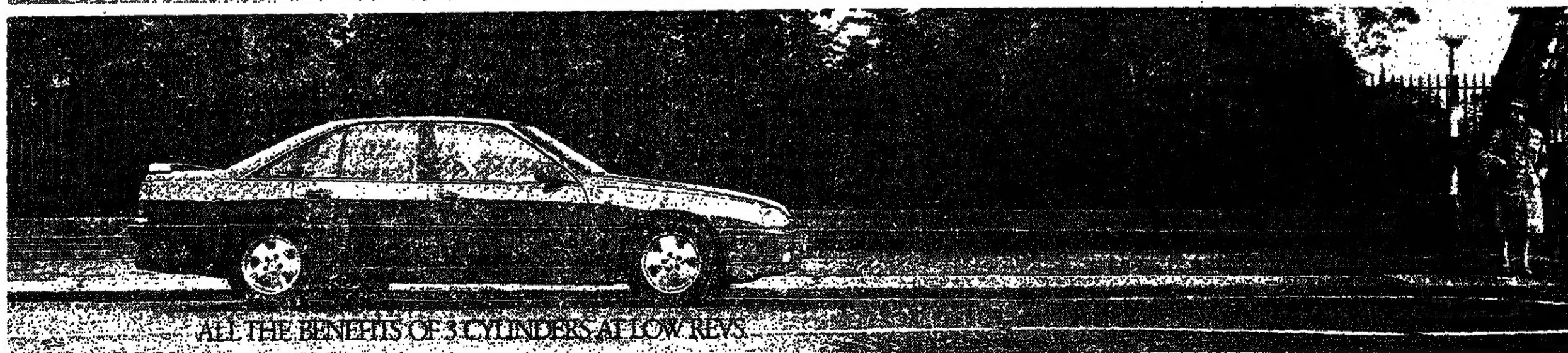
amount coming from those in the other Gulf states. According to banking sources in east Jerusalem, the Iraqi regime is making some effort to maintain the flow of funds to "Palestine", conscious that a loss of income because of events in Kuwait could help to turn Palestinian opinion against Baghdad. But Palestinians are finding that the value of their savings — assuming such savings are not lost for ever — has dwindled because of the decline in Arab currencies, notably the Kuwaiti and Jordanian dinars.

Israel yesterday said it would help West Bank businessmen by raising the limit on the amount of Jordanian dinars Palestinians can import into the West Bank, and by ensuring that trade between the West Bank and Gulf states by way of Jordan is not impeded.

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THE TIMES MONDAY AUGUST 27 1990
MIDDLE EAST: RETURN OF BRIAN KEENANHomecoming
achieved
with dignity
and humour

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

DURING his four and a half years of captivity in darkened cells in Beirut, Brian Keenan must have dreamt of what he would say and do when he returned to his native Ireland.

He may have wished that he would say funny or moving things, that he would remember to keep a hold of his emotions and to thank all those, especially his sisters and family, for their tireless work to secure his release. Perhaps the Belfast teacher and university lecturer, aged 39, fantasised that he would be received like a head of state.

How gratifying it must have been for him that it all happened just as he might have wished it. Mr Keenan returned to Dublin on Saturday night with dignity, displaying a robustness of character and an unimpaired sense of humour.

He was met by his family and friends, among them Frank Reed, the American hostage with whom he had spent some of his time in captivity, and Archbishop Robert Eames, the Church of Ireland Primate.

As Mr Keenan spoke to the press, his two sisters, Elaine Spence and Brenda Gillham, stood beside him, flanked by Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, and Gerard Collins, the Irish foreign minister. Mr Keenan said that he was delighted to be home.

"It's been a long four and a half years. Sometimes it seems like four and half lifetimes," he said. He thanked Mr Haughey and the Irish government, and joked about the medical care he was to receive and about how much he looked forward to eating bacon and eggs cooked by his mother. "I am torn between a rock and a hard place. I am overwhelmed at the affection tonight, but another part of me goes back to those men that are left behind. They are somewhere out there and somewhere in here (pointing to his heart)," he said.

Yesterday Mr Keenan was in hospital, undergoing a thorough medical check. In the coming weeks, more details about the conditions of his captivity are expected to be disclosed.

He may also have information about the British and American hostages still held in Beirut, with whom he was confined, Mr Keenan said that.

John McCarthy, the television journalist aged 33, seized in April 1986, and John Sutherland, the American academic aged 59, in captivity since June 1985, were well.

Terry Anderson, the American journalist aged 42, kidnapped in March 1985, was in "good form", he said. He had no news, however, about Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, who disappeared in January 1987.



Back on home ground: Brian Keenan, escorted by Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, arrives at Dublin airport yesterday after his release in Beirut on Friday

Government accused of
inertia on hostages

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

A TORY MP yesterday criticised the government for not working hard enough to secure the release of British hostages in the Lebanon.

Robert Adley, MP for Christchurch, who returned recently from a visit to Beirut with two other Conservative MPs, accused the government of "failing to enter open doors" and said the root of the problem lay with a difference between the Foreign Office and the government.

Mr Adley, who is chairman of the British-Syrian parliamentary group, is pressing for a resumption of diplomatic relations between Britain and Syria, the major power broker in the Lebanon.

"The absurdity of the situation is that in the Gulf conflict we could have our troops lined up with Syrian troops, with whom we do not have diplomatic relations, against Iraq, with whom we do."

He said that he had previously been reluctant to reveal contacts he and other MPs had made in Beirut and Syria in seeking the release of the hostages but that he had been angered by Foreign Office claims, after the release of Brian Keenan, that there were difficulties in knowing whom to talk to.

Mr Adley said he wanted more direct contacts between the Foreign Office and figures such as Sheikh Fadlallah, the religious leader of Hezbollah, who told British MPs, "All we need to do is talk", when they had recently discussed with

him the plight of British hostages.

Mr Adley claimed that two years ago he had secured from Farouq al-Sharrah, the Syrian foreign minister, the condemnation of international terrorism which the Foreign Office had told him was required to smooth the way for a resumption of relations.

After a visit to Damascus with Robert Hicks, MP for Cornwall South-East, approved by the Foreign Office but condemned by Downing Street, he had passed to ministers recordings by a BBC journalist of the Syrian foreign minister making the required condemnation. "But they then moved the goalposts."

Nothing had come of numerous meetings between Foreign Office officials and Mawfak Nassar, the head of the Syrian Mission in London accredited to the Lebanese embassy but there had been no contacts at ministerial level. "Re-establishing contact is as difficult as reaching for the telephone," Mr Adley said.

On his latest visit to Beirut as a guest of the Lebanese government with Colin Shephard, Conservative MP for Hereford, and Tim Rathbone, Conservative MP for Lewes, their wives, who had accompanied them, had moved freely in south and west Beirut visiting hospitals which were undoubtedly staffed with Amal and Hezbollah sympathisers.

Minister hints at diplomatic move

By MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A CLEAR hint that Britain was preparing the ground for a resumption of diplomatic relations with Syria and Iran was given yesterday by William Waldegrave, minister of state at the Foreign Office.

"I hope that there is going to be steady progress on this issue now," Mr Waldegrave said on BBC Radio 4's *The World This Week*. He said the prospect would be helped by the beneficial effects of the changing relationships in the Middle East.

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait had resulted in Syria and then Iran joining the more moderate states in the region on the side of the United States and Britain.

For the moment Britain is

in the curious position of having diplomatic relations with the Baghdad government — in spite of its blatant action in detaining nearly 3,000 British citizens and its violation of diplomatic conventions — but not having diplomatic relations with either Damascus or Tehran. The Syrian government has been its ally in the build-up of multi-national forces in the Gulf and Iran gave its support to the military presence at the weekend.

Relations with Syria were broken off in 1986 because of the involvement of the Syrian embassy in London in a plot to blow up an Israeli airliner at Heathrow and ties were cut with Iran in March last year after Ayatollah Khomeini

threatened to have Salman Rushdie, the author, killed.

The lack of diplomatic relations has complicated the government's response to the plight of Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's personal envoy, the journalist John McCarthy, and Jackie Mann, a retired pilot, who are still being held by militant Muslim groups in Iran.

Friends and supporters of the British hostages, who have been impatient at the government's lack of action, are hoping that the apparent success of Dublin in gaining the release of Brian Keenan may

provoke greater effort by the British government. Gerald Kaufman, Labour's shadow foreign secretary, said that

during his recent trip to Damascus the Syrians had made it clear that the host-takers paid great attention to governments' concern about hostages.

Mr Kaufman, speaking on TV-am, said he had gone to Damascus specifically to discuss the British hostages. "What is clear is that the Syrian government are very anxious indeed to help bring about the release of the hostages, despite the fact that we do not have diplomatic relations with them."

He said the Syrians had told him that President Bush and James Baker, the US Secretary of State, had frequently written to President Assad of Syria about the American hostages.

Release brings hope to
families of those still held

By RAY CLANCY

THE families and friends of British hostages still held in Beirut said yesterday that the release of Brian Keenan filled them with hope, but they did not expect another homecoming for some time.

The sight of Mr Keenan raising his arms aloft as he stepped onto the ground at Dublin airport marked an important step in the long campaign to secure the release of John McCarthy, Terry Waite and Jack Mann, but evidence that Iran is taking an increasingly moderate line with the West to increase trade is also regarded as significant.

Relatives in Britain have always found it hard to cope with American, French and Swiss hostages being freed when there is no sign of progress closer to home. Now the easing of tension between

Britain and Iran, which grew out of the Salman Rushdie dispute, and recent indications from the Foreign Office that diplomatic relations could be restored with Iran



McCarthy: chances for his release are still slim

and Syria, the two countries regarded as having the most influence with the Beirut kidnappers, all increase the possibility that a British hostage could be freed next.

David Waite, brother of Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy who was kidnapped in January 1987, said yesterday: "The release of Brian Keenan gives us hope, but also the situation in the Middle East which has changed yet again. A month ago we seemed to regard the Iranians as taking a hard line but now they seem to be more moderate. They realise that they have to get the hostage situation off the cards in order to obtain better trading relations with the West."

The family and friends of John McCarthy, the television journalist who disappeared in April 1986 as he was on his way to Beirut airport to fly home, have been heartened by the news Mr Keenan has given about his fellow captive.

Pat McCarthy, John's father, is eager to hear a first-hand account of how his son is coping with imprisonment. Canon John Oates, of St Bride's in Fleet Street, the journalists' church where a candle burns constantly for John McCarthy, said: "Pat told me he thought it was wonderful to hear Brian talking about John he does not expect him to be freed for some time." The hostage's uncle, also John McCarthy, said: "By the law of averages it should be John who's next to be freed. John and Brian became good friends and shared a cell. Now the worry is that John might be alone."

Jill Morrell, of the Friends of John McCarthy Group set up to campaign for his freedom, said the British government was not doing enough to secure the release of the hostages and she did not expect John to be freed soon. "Brian has had the Irish government working on his behalf. This in no way means that Britain is going to get its hostages out."

Captive's mental scars
will take time to heal

By JOHN YOUNG

DOCTORS treating Brian Keenan, the freed hostage, said yesterday that he should make a full recovery, but experts in the rehabilitation of long-term detainees said he would face bouts of deep depression as he tried to come to terms with the ordinary world.

Mr Keenan surprised doctors at the Mater clinic in Dublin where he is undergoing a thorough medical examination. Professor Sean Blake said that he was young and resilient and should make a full physical recovery from severe malnutrition and exhaustion. The psychological scars would be more difficult to heal.

In captivity he is likely to have been dependent, needing permission to move about or even go to the lavatory. Rediscovering his independence, even in such mundane matters as sitting at a table and using a knife and fork, could

be difficult. Sounds such as those of traffic, radio, television and the telephone are unfamiliar to people whose senses have been numbed by years of isolation. Fear and stress may have permanently changed their characters.

Former hostages who have been released have spoken about the difficulties of re-adjustment. Lawrence Jenko, director of Catholic Relief Services in Beirut, was kidnapped in January 1985 and released in July 1986. He said: "You want to be touched, hugged, and you have to learn that no one will hurt you for doing that."

Caroline Gort-Unsworth, resident psychiatrist at the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, said: "The one predictable thing is that his friends will find him different, sometimes radically different from the person they once knew."

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NATIONAL
SAVINGS

Local remand units plan would cut number of juveniles in jail

By QUENTIN COWDRY
HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MAGISTRATES could be given powers to remand juveniles directly to secure units run by local authorities under government plans designed to reduce sharply the number of teenagers sent to adult jails to await trial.

The bolstering of the magistrates' authority is part of a finely balanced package of measures being floated in Whitehall, which ministers hope will end the mutual mistrust which magistrates and social services staff often display during juvenile bail hearings. The real goal, however, is to cut to the minimum the number of youths under 17 remanded to prison, a practice which leads

to a small but steady stream of teenage suicides behind bars.

Ministers believe two factors explain why about 1,600 boys aged 15 and 16 are remanded to adult prisons each year: there are too few places in the network of local authority juvenile secure units and magistrates suspect that some social services departments are far too lenient towards juveniles remanded into their care.

To overcome those perceived weaknesses, the government intends to increase the number of secure units, in which defendants are kept under lock in key, and give courts the authority to attach residency conditions when remanding juveniles into the care of local authorities. Magistrates would,

however, only be able to order a custodial remand if they thought bail for the individual would expose the public to the risk of "serious harm" or repeated offending.

The existing system of "certificates of unruliness", which enable courts to remand juvenile boys aged 15 and 16 to adult remand centres or jails, would be abolished.

Whitehall officials are still discussing how great the expansion in secure units should be but they are under strong pressure from magistrates, social services chiefs and probation officers not to backslide on the issue. They have been told that it was the absence of such facilities in Wales which drove magistrates to remand Philip Knight, aged

15, to Swansea prison in June. Knight hanged himself in the jail on July 15.

It is understood, however, that Home Office ministers do not want to outlaw the remanding of juveniles to prison department establishments, as they are being urged to by a spectrum of groups ranging from the Howard League for Penal Reform to the Magistrates' Association. They think the option should be retained as a backstop for courts faced with juveniles accused of particularly chilling crimes or for those who have absconded from secure units.

Paul Knight, director of the Association of Directors of Social Services, children and family committees, said he would support a move to give magistrates the power to remand certain

juveniles to named secure units, as long as all the necessary resources were provided. "The issue is how to provide regimes which are much more attuned to the needs of young people. We would all agree that a small number of juveniles have to be securely contained, but that doesn't mean they have to await trial in appalling conditions in jails," he said.

However, Mr Knight, who heads the social services department at Waltham Forest borough council in London, said: "If the government wants to increase our responsibilities in this sphere, we must be properly funded and that means extra funds for training too."

John Hosking, chairman of the Magistrates' Association, said his members would warmly support the empowering

of benches to order the "most difficult juvenile remands" to be sent to secure units. "At present some departments allow juveniles with very serious records simply to return to their families to await trial," he said, however, that the association utterly deplored juveniles being remanded to prisons.

Five teenagers have committed suicide in prison department establishments this year: one at Swansea jail, another at Winchester, and three at Hindley young offenders institution in Wigan. Courts were banned from imposing certificates of unruliness on girls aged 14 in 1977, girls aged 15 and 16 in 1979 and boys aged 14 in 1981. The criteria under which they can be imposed have also been progressively tightened.

Lax controls on farmers blamed for rural mess

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

LAX planning controls that allow farmers an almost free hand to erect buildings, lay roads, pull up trees and hedge-rows and hire out their land for non-farming uses are destroying the peace and disfiguring the appearance of the countryside, according to a report published today.

The exemption of farmland use from normal planning controls is out of date and should be ended, the report by the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), the National Housing and Town Planning Council and the Association of District Councils says.

Tony Burton, senior planner with the CPRE, said: "All other industry is subject to planning controls. Why is agriculture still different when public funds are being used to encourage more environmentally sensitive farming and the countryside is no longer seen as merely a food factory?"

The release of the 31-page report comes a few weeks before the expected publication of a government white paper on the environment. "We hope at the very least that the government will indicate its willingness to extend planning controls to deal with the sort of problems we have identified," Mr Burton said.

The report is critical of the way farmers are able to erect buildings covering an area up to 1,000 sq ft for agricultural use without planning permission. That means, in effect, that they can build "in virtually any location, in any style, in any colour, regardless of the impact on the rural landscape," the report says.

The three organisations also want the government to tighten controls on the temporary use of farmland for activities such as music festivals, circuses, clay pigeon shooting and motor-cycle racing.

As present, the law exempts most such activities from planning permission provided they take place for no more

than 28 days a calendar year. That, the report says, "allows an activity on every Sunday for six months without any control over the duration of each day's activity". The period of exemption should in general be reduced to 14 days a year.

The report also recommends that local authorities should be able to issue landscape preservation orders to protect hedgerows, woodlands, dry-stone walls and other countryside features.

Four new national parks should be created, and stricter controls should be imposed on development in existing parks, to preserve Britain's most cherished landscapes from further damage, a report to be published on Wednesday will advise the government.

The South Downs, the North Pennines, the New Forest and the Cambrian Mountains in central Wales are recommended as candidates for park status in the report, which was drawn up by more than 40 conservation groups represented in the Council for National Parks.

Planning Control Over Farmland: Reforming Permitted Development Rights in the Countryside (Council for the Protection of Rural England, 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1; £5, including postage and package)



Unspoilt view: Protesters claim that a proposed 125ft high lattice of radar masts would be visible on the skyline behind St David's cathedral.

Battle to save smallest city's skyline

By ROBIN YOUNG

ONE carnival float in today's procession through the narrow streets of Britain's smallest cathedral city, St David's in Pembrokeshire, will cast a pall on the jollity.

Mounted by the Pembrokeshire Against Radar Cam-

paign (Parc) it will warn holidaymakers of defence ministry proposals which residents fear will ruin views all over the St David's peninsula, undermine the local tourist industry and possibly endanger people's health for miles around.

The government's plan is to

co-operate with the Americans in building a radar system that would watch the northern seas from the Faeroes to the Arctic, by bouncing signals off the ionosphere. The transmitting station at St David's would cover 85 acres with 35 masts. A row of 16 masts connected by lattice mesh would be 125ft high and 1,100ft long, with a lower row running parallel.

The ministry proposes to put the masts on St David's airfield, a plateau above the town within two miles of the cathedral. The site lies between the pilgrims' path to the shrine of the patron saint of Wales and an area designated as of special scientific interest for its wild orchids. It is in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

The airfield was requisitioned in the second world war. More recently people have known it as a place where cowpits and mushrooms grow, where they can see badgers and foxes, or watch peregrines, red kites and ravens. It has been used occasionally for emergency land-

ings, air-sea rescue helicopter practice, or air cadet training. Early warning of the government's intentions came from America through the disclosure of US defence department documents under the Freedom of Information Act.

Peter Trier, a local hotelier and chairman of Parc, says the campaign has collected more than 20,000 petition signatures, arranged a barrage of parliamentary questions, bombed the Ministry of Defence with 12,000 postcards of protest, and written to all American senators asking them to oppose the scheme.

They have also gathered evidence that what they first thought was an environmental outrage could be a health hazard. Professor Thomas Blundell, director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund unit at Birkbeck College, who has a holiday cottage at Pendergast, near the airfield, has written to the ministry urging that the station should not be built because of unquantifiable health risks it would bring.

Roger Coghill, a consultant

to the campaign and author of a forthcoming book *Electropollution*, claims that studies in China, the Soviet Union and America show that radio frequency transmissions at much lower energy levels than would be used at St David's may cause increased incidence of Down's syndrome, some forms of leukaemia, brain tumours, meningitis, genetic defects and damage to the immune system.

Mere mention of such possibilities, residents fear, could cause irreparable damage to the tourist industry on which much of the local economy depends. St David's cathedral had 500,000 visitors last year, and Parc estimates that as many as 15,000 local residents get their livelihood from tourism.

In carnival spirit Parc's supporters on the float will be selling helium-filled balloons carrying the campaign logo. They are suggesting that the balloons should be flown at 125ft, so that people can see for themselves how tall the radar curtain will be if it ever descends on St David's.

Home-buy plan 'hides extra cost'

A government plan to offer council tenants the opportunity to own their homes by converting rent to mortgage payments is criticised today for failing to highlight a series of "hidden" costs.

The government is monitoring schemes in Scotland and Wales before deciding whether to extend the scheme nationally to give 4.2 million tenants the chance to own their homes.

The project in Scotland produced only 154 applications out of 1,000 enquiries and in Wales there were only 118 enquiries, according to Tim Dwyer in an article in *Roof*, the Shelter housing magazine. He said: "Hidden extra costs, such as insurance, repairs and service charges and solicitors' fees, make all talk of payments being identical to a tenant's rent quite dangerous."

Under the scheme, rent is translated into a mortgage payment and the equity share that this equals is established.

Portable courts for big trials

The Lord Chancellor has approved the creation of two "portable courts" to house the forthcoming Blue Arrow and Barlow Clowes trials. Work has begun to transform two empty floors of Chichester House, owned by the department, in Chancery Lane.

The temporary courts are needed because there are no courtrooms in the London area capable of housing all the defendants and lawyers involved in the cases.

Hope for puffins

Puffins on Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel are fighting back from the edge of extinction after a trapping and poisoning campaign on their greatest enemy, the black rat. The birds were also badly affected by pollution and the disappearance of their favourite food, the sandeels. The campaign against the rats has all but removed them and puffin numbers may be as high as 100.

Jurors' outing

THE 11 jurors in the Guinness trial yesterday went on a day-trip. After spending five nights in a hotel, the jury was taken to an undisclosed country location within an hour's drive of London for "a change of scene", in the words of Mr Justice Henry. Today, they will resume deliberations at Southwark Crown Court.

Policing the IRA

The head of the Metropolitan Police's anti-terrorist branch is to have direct control of the police's operations against the IRA on mainland Britain. Until now, if an attack has taken place outside London the squad has had the authority only to liaise with the relevant county force.

Tanker crashes

The driver of a petrol tanker died yesterday after it crashed into a concrete flyover support in Birmingham and caught fire. Firemen tackled flames of up to 100ft high. West Midlands police have named the driver of the tanker as Victor Levett, aged 47, of Hedgesford, Staffordshire.

£8m campaign

The international campaign to raise £8 million for a new Shakespearean Globe Theatre in London was launched in Sydney yesterday by the director and actor Sam Wanamaker. The new theatre is due for completion in two years if the funds are raised.

Portfolio winner

The winner of the weekly £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was John D. Gilbert, of Ringwood, Hampshire. The competition resumes tomorrow.

Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings Premium Bonds weekly draw are: £100,000, bond number 11PT 658618, winner lives in Sheffield; £50,000, number 30CF 268374 (North Humberdale); £25,000, number 6CK 783564 (Doncaster).

Today's Three overseas results: Belgium £10,000, Germany £10,000, France £10,000. The National Lottery results: £10,000, number 1000000000, winner lives in London; £5,000, number 1000000000, winner lives in London; £2,500, number 1000000000, winner lives in London.

Labour line divides TUC

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

TUC leaders will this week be subject to intense lobbying to ensure that the Conservatives are prevented from playing the union card against Labour at the next election.

Next Monday, the day before Neil Kinnock is due to address the TUC in Blackpool, congress delegates will decide whether to adopt a statement on employment law, which is in line with

Labour party policy, or to insist on unfettered freedom. It is a debate that many union leaders regret, believing that there are more pressing matters to be addressed than raising the spectre of 1979 and the winter of discontent. Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, has given a warning that rejection of the document, which retains many laws introduced by the Con-

servatives, could lose Labour the next election. Yesterday, most union leaders were confident that they could defeat what one called "the wish of the fundamentalists to commit the TUC to a line which the public would not support". The TUC general council statement differs little from Labour's line on employment law, under which picketing would be limited.

The attack against the document will be led by Alan Jinkinson, general secretary of the National and Local Government Officers' Association, who has accused Labour of adopting much of the basic philosophy of Tory policy.

Calculations about delegates' likely decision could be upset by the 1,300,000-strong Transport and General Workers' Union. Although Ron Todd, its general secretary, has spoken for the Labour line, its executive has decided to submit to the congress an amendment softening Nalga's motion but still unpalatable to Mr Kinnock. Mr Todd hopes that, by next week, his delegation will reverse the move.

Leading article, page 11

AGENDA

The week ahead

Today: Bournemouth launches centenary celebrations. Last day of Notting Hill carnival.

Tomorrow: British Psychological Society conference at Sterling University. Financial Times conference, World Aerospace and Air Transport to 2000, Intercontinental hotel, London.

Wednesday: National Deaf Children's Society news conference on deaf children at school. National Dialect Society show. British Veterinary Association conference, Vets in Society.

Thursday: Newspaper Society annual report. Newspaper Society conference on regional paper readership.

Friday: Royal Society news conference on myalgic encephalomyelitis ("yuppie flu") research.

Saturday: Home Farm Trust begins fund-raising week for the mentally handicapped. Association of Wrens' 70th anniversary reunion at Wembley conference centre, London.

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CORDULA

DEBATE ON THE BBC

Broadcasters challenge plan for code on impartiality

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

TELEVISION executives, programme producers and broadcast journalists have together mounted a campaign to defeat attempts by Tory MPs and peers to write a strict code of impartiality into the statute book.

Broadcasters at the Edinburgh International Television Festival at the weekend attacked the proposed amendment to the Broadcasting Bill as a recipe for tedious, bland and unwelcome television. It would also severely restrict freedom to report, effectively muzzling programme makers and broadcast journalists, they said.

Programme makers will bombard Home Office officials for the next six weeks with queries about which existing programmes would be censored after the enactment of such an amendment, which would extend the impartiality code to include programmes expressing a personal view.

Although the government last month rejected a Lords amendment to introduce specific rules on impartiality, including mandatory airing of "balancing" programmes within a set period of time, it has said that it will amend clause 6 of the Bill to force the Independent Television Commission (ITC) to tighten existing rules on impartiality in its code of practice.

The ITC would have to follow guidelines set out by the Home Office that are expected in the government's amendment during the Bill's final reading in the Commons this October.

Liz Forgan, director of programmes at Channel 4, said that fixing "in legal concrete" a detailed list of do's and don'ts would result in "a field day for lawyers" and in bland journalism.

"In the new competitive age of television, no one could endure the cost and hassle of legal action for long before finding a way to avoid it," Ms Forgan said, adding that the proposed impartiality rules would intimidate broadcasters into self-censorship.

Charles Wheeler, a BBC foreign correspondent and a former member of the *Panorama* team, said: "If ITV is forced to go down that

road, BBC programmes will end up just as dull and bland as the rest. It would take the BBC back to the shackles of the Fifties before ITV brought the BBC to life."

The BBC, ITV companies, Channel 4, independent producers and the Campaign for Quality Television have said that they will step up their lobbying efforts.

Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, said: "Regulation must be left to those delegated in Parliament to regulate us, the ITC, not the courts and politicians."

In a letter to David Wedderburn, the home secretary, Marmaduke Hussey, the BBC chairman, wrote: "The BBC does not believe that impartiality in programmes is an appropriate area for detailed legislation. These proposals would stultify rather than help promote a true commitment to impartiality at every level of the programme-making and commissioning process. They seek to apply a formula in a complex area where there are many shades of grey and the vital requirement is in good judgment."



The footballer Paul Gascoigne is interviewed by Tom Marsden, aged 11, for the launch of BBC Radio 5 today, the first new national radio network for 23 years. David Hatch, managing director of BBC Network Radio (centre), listens in.

The first voice heard was that of Andrew Kelly, aged five, from Blackpool, Lancashire. He was chosen to open the network after taking part in a *Radio Goes to Town* show during the summer.

Radio 5, which has taken two years to set up, will carry all radio sport except Test match coverage, which will stay on Radio 3 for now and transfer to Radio 5 at a later date.

Viewers' club proposed in place of licence

By RICHARD EVANS

THE battle over the funding and future of the BBC in the late 1990s began in earnest at the weekend after a proposal to transform the corporation into a private non-profit-making foundation.

Senior BBC executives attending the annual television festival in Edinburgh heard a radical plan to end reliance on the licence fee as the main source of revenue for the BBC put forward by Professor Sir Alan Peacock, whose report into broadcasting issues four years ago proved to be the catalyst for the government's broadcasting bill now before Parliament.

Mrs Thatcher has never disguised her personal enthusiasm for replacing the licence fee, and Sir Alan's blueprint, involving club-style membership similar to

the Automobile Association's, will be examined keenly in Whitehall.

The Home Office and the BBC are at present discussing the size of the licence fee when the present three-year agreement expires next April, but the real debate over the corporation centres on what will happen when the BBC's current charter runs out at the end of 1996.

Sir Alan, who envisages the BBC spearheading the development of subscription and pay-as-you-view television in the next few years, said that one solution might be to transform the BBC from being a public corporation to a private non-profit-making foundation, which would enable those who valued the BBC's contribution to subscribe voluntarily to its upkeep. "In short, they would put their money where their mouth is, buttressed, per-

haps, by the tax reliefs which would go with private contributions to charitable corporations."

Difficulties with people not making voluntary contributions could be overcome by using methods adopted by other organizations. "Bodies such as the British Legion or the Automobile Association are founded to promote some common indivisible aim. They can exercise some moral pressure on servicemen or motorists to subscribe by claiming that they provide them with a common benefit - better war pensions, better roads. Non-payers who benefit should examine their consciences," Sir Alan said.

"Such pressures have been used very skilfully in public service broadcasting in the USA, but primarily in the case of small local stations where non-payers may

not be able to remain anonymous and can easily be made to feel uncomfortable."

Apart from moral pressure, non-profit-making organisations also tempted members by offering special privileges and services once they became a voluntary subscriber. At the BBC that could involve free or cheap tickets to recordings or discount on books and records.

Sir Alan said the measures would make the BBC's board of governors redundant. It could be replaced by a board more like that of an independent higher education establishment with a majority of non-executive directors, a non-executive chairman, and with the principal management acting as full members of the board.

Will Wyatt, assistant managing director of BBC television, said that although the BBC had an open mind about future financing and would examine all ideas, including advertising, the licence fee system, which at present brought in £1.2 billion, was simple and cheap to operate. "There is nothing as cost-effective. I shall be surprised if the licence fee does not go forward well beyond 1996. It is barmy to start messing around with the one central thing that everybody seems to think works."

David Elstein, director of programmes at Thames Television, cautioned the BBC against putting all its eggs in the licence-free basket. Given the hostility within the government towards the BBC, the corporation had to motivate the public "to support the BBC as an institution rather than the licence fee".

Mr Tony Hall, the new director of news and current affairs at the BBC, said it was up to broadcasters to make sure the issue was kept in the public domain by telling viewers if a reporter had been stopped from saying what he would have liked to have said about Northern Ireland.

"I think we've continued to report Northern Ireland thoroughly, but not in the way we would want. The restrictions hamper us in our job of telling the viewers honestly and directly what is going on."

Sinn Fein chief tells media to fight ban

By RICHARD EVANS

GERRY Adams, president of Sinn Fein, called last night on British media executives assembled in Edinburgh to fight the government's ban on broadcasting interviews with members of his organisation.

In an article written by the republican leader for the Edinburgh television festival newspaper, Mr Adams accused television and radio stations of interpreting the ban introduced by Douglas Hurd in October 1988 "in a way which has hardened its provisions".

The republican leader said the government-imposed censorship had severely inhibited public understanding in Britain of the issues creating the conflict in Ireland, and had led to a dramatic decline in broadcasting coverage of the conflict within Northern Ireland and Britain.

"Is Thatcher going to be allowed to mould a compliant media or is the media going to take an example from those who have refused to conform to the politics of the last atrocity, and challenge British governments' efforts to deny free speech and freedom of access to information? The choice is yours," he wrote.

Although British broadcasters remain opposed to the ban, Mr Adams's appeal appeared to have made little impact last night. Mr Stuart Purvis, editor of ITN, said: "I doubt whether Adams, talking about free speech, advances the cause of broadcasters over the ban because the organisation he supports has itself ended the free speech of many human beings. Broadcasters have carried out their responsibilities under the letter of the law, but without breaking the law."

Mr Tony Hall, the new director of news and current affairs at the BBC, said it was up to broadcasters to make sure the issue was kept in the public domain by telling viewers if a reporter had been stopped from saying what he would have liked to have said about Northern Ireland.

"I think we've continued to report Northern Ireland thoroughly, but not in the way we would want. The restrictions hamper us in our job of telling the viewers honestly and directly what is going on."

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The first Zenith Data Systems European Challenge has reached the half way stage. We are delighted to note that the best of this month's Europeans seem intent on staying ahead in this Challenge, but we are also pleased to welcome new entries every month. Well done to all challengers and may the best dealers win.

BEST OF THE MONTH

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COX S.A. - NAMUR
Mr. NOTTE
EURDATA - LUXEMBOURG
Mr. DEPIENNE

FRANCE

ALCINE - GENNEVILLIERS
M. FOUCALT
CEIM SERTRONIC - LE MANS
M. BOISTIER
CMM-DIFFUSION - ECULLY
M. SOUPRE
COMINEO - BOIS-GUILAUME
M. LAMBERT
COOPERATIVE INFORMATIQUE
PARIS
Mme. SLUCH
EPROM - MARSEILLE
M. AFARIAN
FID-INFORMATIQUE
LEVALLOIS-PERRET
M. SIMONIN
IDC - LYON
M. RATVET
IFONORD - LILLE
M. WURMSER
JISTRAL - LOUVIENNES
M. LEHMANN
MEDIATEC - MARSEILLE
M. AUBIN
MEMOIREVIVE - BORDEAUX
Mme. FRODEFOND
MICRODIS - BLANCA
M. MORALES

GERMANY

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CLERMONT-FERRAND
M. NEYRIAL
NOGEMA - NANCY
M. CLEMENT
PERIODATA - SCEAUX
M. PIKAL
PRAXIAL - NANTERRE
M. BENGUIGUI
PROMEGA OMB - CAEN
M. VASSARD
QUALITESA - VERRIERES-LE-BUISSON
M. ARECASSIS
SBI - LANDERNEAU
M. LE BRAS
SEAGULL - RUNGIS
M. FRANCHI
SERMI/SELACO - CARQUEFOU
M. BOUGET
SMO BUREAUTIQUE - CLAMART
M. DECUGIS
SSIG - LE RHOU
M. CHAUVEL
BÜROINRICHTUNGS-ZENTRUM
GÖTTINGEN-WEENDE
HARTAUT GROSSE
COMPUTER DEWALD - LOSHEIM
HERR DEWALD
DECATES - OBER-RAMSTADT
HERR KOCH
DEJ DATENTECHNIK - HANN
ULRICH ESTERLUB
GESELLSCHAFT FÜR
SELSENGERICHEN-BUER
HERR SCHNEIDER

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B & I CENTRO SISTEMI
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C SNC - PADOVA
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OLMI DI TREVISO (TV)
PAVANI
EDIC SPA - MILANO
COSTA
ELCAM & PARTNERS SNC - TORINO
DAL PORTO
I.T.D. SRL - MILANO
ROBBATI
LESS SRL - MESSINA
BRANDONI
L'UFFICIO MODERNO
CORNAREDO (MI)
POZZONI
METODO SAS - S. MARTINO
IN STRADA (MI)
BRICCA

NUOVA COMPUTATA SAS - PALERMO

CANGIALOSI
RAPHAEL INFORMATIKA SPA - ROMA
ARZILLI
SETA SRL - ROMA
MORALES
SISTEMA SRL - GALLARATE (VA)
PAGANI

SCANDINAVIA

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Protest by Muslims brings break-up of Yugoslavia nearer

FROM RICHARD BASSETT AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

DEMONSTRATIONS at the weekend by 150,000 Muslims in Bosnia further undermined the fragile federal structure of the Yugoslav state. And ethnic Albanian unrest in the Kosovo region appears set to explode again after the arrest of the Albanian trade union leader, Dr Hajrullah Gorani, in Pristina.

Both events, following a virtual armed uprising by Serbs in Croatia last week, have shattered any illusions that Yugoslavia can function in its present form. All the threads of the complex tapestry are unravelling and Western governments are at last taking seriously the possibility of Yugoslavia's break-up.

The Muslim demonstrations at Foca commemorated a wartime killing of Muslims by Serbian royalist Cetniks. But the meeting was given added point by growing resentment against Serbian attempts to lay claim to regions with sizeable Muslim populations.

The meeting sealed the credentials of a new Muslim party, the Party of Democratic Action, Adil Zulfikarpasic, its leader, said: "For 70 years, the Muslims lived with their heads bowed. Today this has come to an end."

Under Yugoslavia's constitution, the two million Muslims in Bosnia enjoy special status as one of the republic's three constituent nations. Serbian attempts to depict them as a "minority in Serbia" are angering the Muslims, who form a majority in the Bosnian republic.

The Muslim protest is only a distant counterpoint to the struggle in and around Knin in southwest Croatia. The events of last week, when armed Serbs put up roadblocks throughout the region,

terrorising the population, has been fuelled by propaganda in the Belgrade press.

Meanwhile, in addition to the Muslims and Croats, the Serbs are continuing to bully the ethnic Albanians of Kosovo. Stripped progressively of their rights, the Albanians are near breaking point. The arrest of Dr Gorani is the final blow in a series of humiliations which have left the 1.75 million Albanians in the region without legal institutions of their own.

Closure of their television and newspaper offices, substitution of Serbian police for their Albanian force, and dismissal of judges and more than 10,000 civil servants have driven the ethnic Albanian population to despair.

Mr Gorani has been sentenced to 60 days with immediate effect in an attempt to remove him from the scene before a planned general strike. The strike has been called for September 3 and is expected to last 34 hours. But if prolonged, the Serbian authorities have threatened tougher measures, beginning with the dismissal of all workers involved.

Serbia's increasing intransigence has brought warnings from former friends of Belgrade. An American congressman, Jim Moody, recently visited Belgrade with a warning that Congress may vote to block all American aid to Yugoslavia until the human rights situation in Kosovo improves. Congress is believed to be alarmed by the dismissal of 1,500 ethnic Albanian policemen and suspension of parliament.

Serbia's increasing isolation is also underlined by changes of mood in its two southern neighbouring republics, Macedonia and Montenegro. Montenegro has edged away from the Serbian embrace. Even Macedonia is now ready to defend its sovereign status in the face of what one of its senior politicians, Pear Gosev, calls "ever more aggressively articulated Serbian threats". Mr Gosev said at a recent meeting: "The Serbs are threatening to wipe Macedonia off the map." Like the northern republics of Croatia and Slovenia, Macedonia sees its future only in a new Yugoslav confederation of sovereign states.

Serbia's drive for hegemony in the region is linked to the belief of the Serbian leader, Slobodan Milosevic, that in the hard negotiations which lie ahead to determine Yugoslavia's future, Serbia must be as strong as possible. His vision is of a centralised Yugoslavia in which the Serbs have the greatest say. Pockets of the Serbian population in Croatia and Bosnia are useful pressure groups.

But by activating the Serbs outside Serbia, Mr Milosevic has polarised the country and reopened old wounds. Mobilising the tiny Serbian minority in Kosovo has served only to unify the Albanians.



Milosevic: actions have reopened old wounds

Iliescu to visit Belgrade

FROM REUTER IN BUCHAREST

PRESIDENT Iliescu of Romania, ostracised by much of the world, will visit Yugoslavia next week on his first official trip abroad since he was confirmed as president in May elections, diplomatic sources said yesterday. He will start his visit on September 3 and will meet President Jovic.

President Iliescu attracted international condemnation after he summoned miners to Bucharest in June to crush anti-government protests. He is also at the centre of claims that the overthrow of Nicolae Ceausescu was not a popular revolution but a coup.

No prominent Western leaders have visited Romania since June, and Western economic aid has been frozen.

Diplomatic sources said that Moscow-educated President Iliescu may also visit the

Soviet Union, Bulgaria and Greece soon.

Protests continue: Groups of demonstrators blocked a central Bucharest street yesterday for a fifth consecutive day, despite appeals for order and police action to end anti-government protests. A police statement carried by the official Romsprems news agency said 80 people were detained in the earlier protests. (Reuters)



Soviet smokers queuing for rationed cigarettes during the worst shortage in decades. At this shop smokers are let in ten at a time, as many more wait outside. On the black market American cigarettes can cost £16.50 a pack.

Cholera and diphtheria adding to Soviet ills

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

IF THERE was one benefit the Soviet system was supposed to have brought its population, it was a free health service and a dramatic improvement in standards of public health.

In recent years even that claim has been refuted as reports multiplied of the insanitary conditions in Soviet hospitals, the backwardness of treatment, the shortage of medicine and low-calibre staff on minimal wages.

Each summer brings a crop of mass salmonella poisonings, reflecting indescribable conditions in food preparation and distribution. This summer the illnesses have gone beyond salmonella.

In Moscow eight people have died and more than 150, including 33 children, are in hospital suffering from diphtheria. The disease which conjures images of Victorian slums can spread easily in a city where many live in communal flats, sharing cooking and washing facilities.

The capital's main daily paper blamed the epidemic on

a mass refusal to be vaccinated. But in several widely publicised cases, children have been infected with the Aids virus because of poorly sterilised needles. The majority of those ill and all the fatalities so far, however, are adults. The poor diet available to most Muscovites and the dearth of vitamin supplements make for a vulnerable population.

Elsewhere there have been outbreaks of cholera. How exceptional these are is hard to judge because the incidences show a correlation to glasnost, but doctors say it rarely strikes outside its usual summer habitat of Central Asia.

The first publicised outbreak was near the city of Stavropol, in the northern Caucasus. The source was traced to a spring at a camp site; the camp site was cleared, the spring destroyed and the cholera supposedly contained. It later emerged that the original figure of 24 people affected had to be multiplied by 10 and probably 100 times.

At first the authorities consoled themselves with the idea that the spring had been infected by Syrian construction workers staying at the camp site. Reading between the lines of official reports revealed that anyone who looked vaguely Arab was chased out of town. Work on the hotel they had been building was suspended.

Then a new outbreak was reported, near the city of

Rostov-on-Don. The victims were an isolated peasant family. Rumours that the River Don itself was infected were denied. Raw sewage in a tributary of the Don was blamed. But a brave newspaper commentator drew a general conclusion. "It is time to recognise," he said, "that cholera is a disease of the underdeveloped world."

Around the time of the Rostov cholera outbreak, the Pacific port of Vladivostok was closed to outsiders "temporarily" because of insanitary conditions. Officials claimed there was no bacteriological risk, but said the sewage system had been damaged by heavy rain. Rumours of an epidemic were denied but the city is still closed.

Through the summer at least three other areas - Yaroslavl, north of Moscow, the northern part of the Dnestr valley, and the industrial city of Ufa in Bashkir - have been without drinking water because pollutants have leaked into river water.

As the exposure of poor public hygiene multiplies, the maligned medical profession has started to complain. A week ago doctors and hospital staff staged their first strike, with demands that would bring tears of joy to the eyes of Mrs Thatcher. They want a system of fully privatised medicine based on insurance contributions. Only that, they say, will produce the funds Soviet medicine so evidently needs.

Kremlin detects rise in spying activities

FROM AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE IN MOSCOW

DESPITE the end of the Cold War, foreign intelligence services are increasing their activities in the Soviet Union and using ever more advanced technology to gather information. Pravda said yesterday, quoting a senior KGB officer.

The KGB has uncovered 30 dangerous foreign intelligence agents and has prevented 120 attempts to pass on secret information during the past five years, according to Viktor Grushko, a deputy head of the Soviet security service and

chief of counter-intelligence operations.

Among agents arrested over that time were one Tolkaichev, chief engineer at a scientific research institute specialising in radio-electronic transmissions, and a leading CIA source, Lieutenant-General Polyakov, who headed the armed forces' intelligence-gathering operations, Mr Grushko said.

Most of the traitors were sentenced to death and executed, he said.

11 burn to death in rail crash

Prague - Eleven people were burned to death and more than 30 injured when two trains collided in northern Czechoslovakia, the state-run news agency CTK said yesterday.

A passenger train carrying 50 people hit a goods train near Spalov, about 65 miles northeast of Prague, the agency said. Czechoslovak Radio said fire from a tank wagon spread to passenger carriages.

All but four of the survivors were admitted to hospital with burns and other injuries, CTK said. (Reuters)

Banker jailed

San Jose - A former Costa Rican banking official was jailed for 15 years for money laundering, the daily La Nación said. Ricardo Alem is the first person to be tried for money laundering under a tough 1988 drug-trafficking statute. (Reuters)

Opium record

Quetta - Pakistani troops seized 2,200 lbs of opium worth millions of pounds from heavily armed smugglers on the Afghan border, the biggest opium haul in the country's history. (AFP)

Pygmy threat

Kampala - Uganda's population of pygmies, now down to about 100, may soon become extinct, within two years because they refuse medical attention and reject modern living styles, the government-owned New Vision newspaper quoted a government doctor as saying. (Reuters)

Farm hostages

Rio de Janeiro - Five heavily armed escaped convicts are threatening to kill three hostages on a farm 135 miles north of here if authorities do not provide them with a helicopter, police said. (AP)

Sunday extra

Ose - The Dagbladet newspaper, citing new labour laws, printed Norway's first national Sunday edition since 1919 - when typographers and other workers stopped the presses by refusing to work on the Sabbath. (AP)

Leaders to discuss the new Europe

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET Thatcher can be excused a wry reflection on the fleeting nature of political prizes tomorrow as she flies into Helsinki for a meeting of Western conservative leaders.

A month ago the thirteenth conference of the European Democratic Union would have been a celebration of the triumph of the prime minister's distinctive brand of free-market economics over its centrally planned rival in the East. But now, with President Saddam Hussein of Iraq on the prowl in the Gulf, the tumultuous events of last autumn are passing into the shade.

While democracy's rebirth in countries such as East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland still dominates the formal part of the democratic union's agenda, the Gulf emergency and the huge build-up of military might in the region will provide the real talking point.

Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor, is expected to tear himself away from the travails of German reunification to attend the conference, and Mrs Thatcher is likely to take the opportunity to seek to stiffen his resolve in resisting Iraqi aggression.

The Gulf crisis will also be to the fore in the talks between Mrs Thatcher and Harri Holkeri, the Finnish prime minister. Neutral Finland is an elected member of the United Nations Security Council, and with Mrs Thatcher setting such store by economic pressures to produce a peaceful solution to the confrontation she will be keen to canvass his views.

United States Republicans and leading members of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic party will also be present, and Mrs Thatcher will be able to bring herself up to date on the mood in Washington and Tokyo.

She will be keen to find out how much substance there is to the bellicose mutterings seeping out from the Pentagon and the margins of the Bush administration. Oil supplies are likely to be the main topic in talks with the Japanese representatives.

Not that Eastern Europe or Britain's £1 billion trade deficit with Finland, a country of only five million people, will be overlooked. The two-day conference starting on Thursday is due to discuss the latest state of play in the former Warsaw Pact countries and the creation of a new security structure for Europe. German reunification and cross-boundary environmental pollution are also on the agenda.

Finland is a member of the European Free Trade Association, which is currently engaged in negotiations with the European Community about closer links between the two blocs. Mrs Thatcher will tell Mr Holkeri of her support for such integration while warning that it must not impede completion of the single European market in 1992.

A number of Hungarian and Czechoslovak political parties have applied for membership of the democratic union, which is open to christian, democrat, conservative and non-collectivist groupings.

Josef Antall, the Hungarian prime minister, and Jan Carno Gursky, his deputy, will be arguing that the union must expand to take in its latest batch of political converts.

Jacques Chirac, the leader of French Gaullists and mayor of Paris, President Mitsotakis of Greece and Josef Reigler, the vice-chancellor of Austria, are among those attending the conference.

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Undignified end for 'nanny state'

FROM ANNE MCELVOY
IN EAST BERLIN

WITH German unity now little more than a month away, the East is hard at work eradicating the vestiges of the past and turning a blind eye to the irregularities in the hasty needlework stitching the two German states together again.

On the bridges over the bumpy autobahns, workers are furiously scraping away the signs which once pointed to "Berlin - capital of the GDR." The speed limit of 60 mph and stern signs warning drivers to observe the ban on alcohol - "Beware: 0.0 per cent in the GDR" - survive as reminders of the socialist nanny state.

As the unity process has failed to observe any speed limit, wrangles over future unitary traffic regulations together with those governing abortion and property claims in the East remain unsolved and are likely to be put on ice for a joint German parliament to solve.

The Social Democratic party (SPD) is still threatening not to sign the unity treaty unless Helmut Kohl, the federal chancellor, backs down on his plan to export West Germany's rigorous anti-abortion legislation to the more liberal East. The Christian Democrats now appear to be outnumbered by the joint opposition on the matter.

The merger of the two states has been "sown with a hot needle," as the German

sage has it, and bears all the hallmarks of a rushed job. In Bonn the East German mission is being hastily reorganised to house 31 of the 144 East German MPs who will be represented in the Bonn parliament until the all-German elections on December 2 and extra seats are being installed into the Bundestag to accommodate the newcomers. "It is a bit tight, but they will just have to squash together a bit," said a spokesman for the parliament's administration.

All that remains now is to restore the enthusiasm that has been dissipated by weeks of party wrangling over the date and provisions for unity. The timing of the merger has been battered around so freely by the parties of East and West in the past weeks that it is in danger of losing its public appeal. "Most people just want the whole thing over with," an East-CDU worker yesterday.

Fate seemed to will that the country would never become an over-40. Unity will now take place four days ahead of the 41st anniversary of the founding of East Germany on October 7. This means that the country will have gone from the rusty dictatorship of Erich Honecker through reform communism, freely elected government, coalition rule and breakdown, to a merger with West Germany in less than a year.

But political and economic mismanagement by the government of

Lothar de Maiziere, coupled with exaggerated optimism by Bonn, have made its death throes undignified.

In the final talks on the terms of unity this week, the East German prime minister will have to be in several places at once as he has dismissed several of his cabinet ministers and the remaining SPD members, including the foreign minister, have walked out.

Herr Kohl, who needs an increase in the emotional temperature to distract attention from the cost of unification to the West German tax payers and the soaring unemployment in the East, has called it a "Day of Joy for Germany" and instructed his party's opinion-shapers to accentuate the positive.

The chancellery minister, Rudolf Seiters, announced yesterday that October 3 would be celebrated with church services, street parties and school holidays across Germany. "After 40 years of socialist repression come freedom and unity. That is why October 3 is an occasion to celebrate and show gratitude," he said.

Canada critic: The East German public prosecutor has instituted proceedings against 77 former border guards who shot dead escapees on the German border and along the Berlin Wall since 1961. Günter Seidel said that bringing the guards to book was "extremely difficult" as records of the shootings have been destroyed.

Leaders
to discuss
the new
Europe

Colonel Martin Jonker, the

Job qu spread i

The job reservation plan is patently a ploy by V. P. Singh, the prime minister, to build a political base among Harijans

The two senior unionists were seized with 50 other members who were attending a meeting in Newcastle in the Natal province, Marcel Golding, the assistant general secretary of the union, said. (AFP)

The job reservation plan is patently a ploy by V. P. Singh, the prime minister, to build a political base among Harijans

Mr Singh's populist bid for peasant support demonstrates how total has been his political transformation since coming to power nine months ago with a reputation for scrupulous integrity and lack of personal ambition. He now aims to undercut the support of Devi Lal, his former deputy, who is attempting to mobilise the low-caste peasants against the government to avenge his dismissal on August 1 on the ground of disloyalty.



The statement said that the third unsuccessful attack was against Ta Vong, 17 miles southeast of Thmar Puok, a district capital which is held

About 200 security personnel remain trapped in the fort since fighting broke out between troops of the Sinhalese-controlled government and Tamil Tigers on June 11. The Tigers want a separate homeland for Tamils in the Northern and Eastern provinces.

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Deposit (20%)	863.08	862.96	862.96
APR%	0%	9.5%	13.2%
Monthly Instalments (24)	143.83	109.99	91.77
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Gulf risks for Thatcher

Ronald Butt

The menacing storm in the Middle East has done nothing to disturb the customary August doldrums of British politics. The prime minister's prompt decision to send sea and air (but significantly, not land) forces to support the Americans has had the general approval of the British public and the support of the leaders of other political parties. Neil Kinnock and Gerald Kaufman have been comfortable in giving Labour's forthright support to the government's actions because the United Nations' resolutions have provided a moral basis for them. Mrs Thatcher is psychologically at ease with what she is doing because it symbolises so clearly the reassertion of the Anglo-American special relationship so close to her heart.

Even so, it is a question of substance whether the consequences of the crisis in the Middle East will ultimately alter the balance of political advantage between Conservatives and Labour in the run-up to the general election. Much of the answer lies outside the control of any British politicians.

So far, the government has not put a foot wrong. It was instantly active in its resistance to Iraqi aggression, taking the UN as its justification and the US as its strength. Yet it has also been markedly more cautious than the Americans in its gestures and rhetoric. Bombastic revelations from parts of Washington about the build-up of US military strength suggest that the Americans are seriously contemplating a pre-emptive strike. But the signals from Douglas Hurd and the Foreign Office continue to emphasise that the British expect this to be a long drawn out affair, that they rely on economic sanctions and envisage the use of force only in reply to force.

Whether the Americans really contemplate an assault or are merely trying to frighten Iraq and loosen Saddam's hold on power remains to be seen. On balance, the latter seems the more likely. If a war resulted from an Iraqi attack because of UN-authorised naval enforcement of sanctions, British solidarity would probably remain intact. If, however, the Americans set out unilaterally on a pre-emptive strike, British political attitudes might be transformed. Mrs Thatcher would have to decide about the degree of British involvement. Parliament would have to be recalled. Mr Kinnock would be under pressure from parts of his party to modify his position. Even some Tory MPs might not be happy.

British public opinion might also be modified. So far there is no evidence that voting intentions have been influenced by the crisis. According to an opinion poll in *The Sunday Times* yesterday, Labour has increased its lead in the last month, but another poll in *The Observer* suggests that Labour's lead has fallen. The probability is that the public will make up its mind only on the

merits of the way the Gulf crisis is handled from now on.

The one thing that is clear is that the public's response will not be as simple and straightforward as it was over the Falklands, when Britain embarked on a limited campaign in a cause directly concerning people who wished to remain British. In contrast, the British interest in Kuwait is indirect. Western intervention was not undertaken to rescue western citizens but to prevent Saddam Hussein from building up an Arabian oil imperialism which could endanger general peace. If war comes, the public, and Parliament, will judge according to the sense of responsibility and the skill with which these ends are pursued. The irony for both Mrs Thatcher and Mr Kinnock is that this is something over which Britain's influence is limited.

The same is true for the economic consequences, which will become more serious the longer the crisis goes on. Before the Iraqi aggression it was already touch and go whether Britain could avoid a recession as a result of maintaining high interest rates to overcome inflation. Domestic demand remained too high, and the strong pound resulting from high interest rates endangered export competitiveness.

The impact on the economy of sharply higher oil prices since Iraq invaded Kuwait and the consequential worldwide financial instability has, on balance, made all this worse. Though Britain, as an oil producer, has a net advantage by comparison with other European economies, and though the effect of a strong pound in tightening the economy could be seen as an influence towards a cautious lowering of interest rates, the greater effect of high oil prices will be to put up prices all round. In other words, it is a further influence for inflation and makes it increasingly difficult for the government to avoid both inflation and a stagnant economy in the run-up to the general election.

In this situation, the election game is wide open, but Labour has the potential advantage. The government will be judged by whether it can beat back inflation without another recession, and account will be taken of the fact that the seeds of the current inflation are not, as after 1979, an inheritance from Labour but the outcome of the government's own failure to prevent a credit boom. Against this backdrop will be set the public grumbles about the failure to find sufficient funding for a range of essential public services. Tax cutting will not be an option.

A provisional judgment on the consequences of Saddam Hussein's aggression for British politics is that they are unlikely to be helpful to Mrs Thatcher, however adeptly she handles Britain's response. For Mr Kinnock on the other hand, they are likely to be constructively neutral, provided his party lets him maintain the responsible position he has adopted so far.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

Can I claim the record? Is this the first *Times* column written seated on a rock on the summit of Huaynapicchu?

Five hundred feet beneath me, laid out in geometrical splendour, are the ruins of Machu Picchu. To each side rise massive green walls of jungle mountain cloud swirling around their peaks. Thousands of feet below runs the Urubamba, sacred river of the Incas, beginning its great descent to the Amazon.

Inspiring. But I am worried on two scores. First, I do not know how this will reach you. On Saturday, from Lima, I invited you to smile with me at the Peruvian government's increase of 700 per cent in the price of noodles. Now we are punished. Last night telephone charges rose by 1,000 per cent, and there is no text here. I'm damned if I can afford to sail across Lake Titicaca to Bolivia and phone this through to Wapping.

Oh! The clouds have lifted all across the mountain tops: sun has broken through; I am ringed by a vast green curtain, falling in dark folds down to the white-flecked river. Birds call from the trees crowding its banks. By my arm, little bushes raise pink candles of flowers. Inspiring. Yet it recalls my second worry. I have encountered an important new concept which I can hardly convey to you by any name other than the awful modern jargon which so efficiently captures the concept.

Eco-tourism. I encountered it last night in a bar in Cuzco. It was coined (for me, anyway) by someone who has featured in this column before: young Alex.

Times readers encountered Alex after our first meeting, two years ago, in the same bar. He had given up a career in mortgage broking in England and come to South America to find himself. He had found himself behind the bar in Cuzco's only English-style pub: The Cross Keys, frequented by Australian back-packers home-sick for Earls Court, bewildered Swiss tourists, and the *jeunesse* of Cuzco, Peruvian-cool, who

imagine that Newcastle Brown beer mats and a tape of Phil Collins constitute English style.

Ah! The glass-painted hummingbird brings a blur of green wings, beat only in focus, to the pink candlesticks. And brings me to the point.

I have said before that people travel to find themselves have sometimes not tried looking in the obvious places. In a book I have just finished on Peru, I predicted that Alex was too ingenious to stay at The Cross Keys and would end up in real estate in Chile. Now I have come to check the prophecy. Was Alex still here?

Yes. But not serving beer. The walls of the pub are freshly plastered with literature on endangered species and news of a venture which, with Peruvian partners, Alex is pioneering. He was here with clients.

We sat down, my parents joined us, and he explained the concept. "Eco-tourism," he said — we winced — "has hardly started in the Peruvian Amazon. But my company, and one other, are now running expeditions into the Manu national park. The place is unbelievable. From our camp on the riverbank you can spot 273 varieties of birds."

How was business? "Booming!" Every other area of Peruvian tourism has slumped. Yet ours brought this country more than a million dollars in foreign currency this year.

"And this," he said, "is the point." Here the commercial twinkle in his eyes gave way to an idealistic sparkle: "This has got to be the only secure future for the rain forests. It's no use preaching to poor countries. Instead they must see for themselves that rain forests can bring dollars for all time. Logging just destroys that."

"Eco-tourism," he said, "has a fantastic future. And it's right."

"Go for the older market," I said. "Look at my parents. Intrepid, tough, time and money to spare — and millions more like them."

"Ah!" said Alex. "Wrinkly eco-tourism. Now there's the concept!"

Christopher Greenwood sees Nuremberg-style trials likely when Iraq is brought to book

Now force is given the teeth of law

The language may be cautious but there is no mistaking the effect: Security Council Resolution 665 authorises naval forces operating in the Gulf to enforce UN sanctions against Iraq. By this action the Security Council has made clear that Iraq's dispute is not merely with Kuwait, Saudi Arabia or the West but with the whole international community.

Resolution 665 is a welcome indication that the Security Council — which is charged by the UN charter with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security — is prepared to enforce the law against Iraq, even though the lack of any standing UN forces means that the council can do so only by authorising states to act on its behalf.

The UN cannot, therefore, assume its normal role of mediator. In the Iran-Iraq war, the secretary-general, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, was an impartial mediator. Today, however, the UN is itself at odds with Iraq, which has repeatedly defied Security Council resolutions ordering it to withdraw from Kuwait.

Mr Pérez de Cuellar could still pursue a diplomatic solution, but

there is no question of his doing so as a neutral intermediary. As the principal official of the very body whose authority Iraq continues to flout, he serves a party to the dispute — if one can speak of the law-breaker being in dispute with the agencies of law enforcement.

Iraq's actions against those trapped in Kuwait and Iraq have to be seen in the same light. Thus, the threats against foreign diplomats remaining in Kuwait are not only a serious breach of the principles of diplomatic law but also contravene an express Security Council instruction to Iraq not to interfere with diplomatic missions there.

Similarly, the measures taken by Iraq against foreigners generally — and, indeed, against Kuwaiti citizens — violate fundamental provisions of international humanitarian law. Iraq is bound by the Geneva Convention of 1949, which regulates the treatment of the population in occupied territory. The Geneva Convention outlaws the use of civilians as hostages or as a shield for military installations. It prohibits their deportation and the imposition of the death pen-

alty for such acts as "harbouring foreigners". Iraq's actions in Kuwait violate all of these provisions, and they also defy specific Security Council resolutions declaring the annexation of Kuwait to be void and ordering Iraq to facilitate the departure of foreign nationals.

Can these rules of international law be enforced? How far, in short, does law really matter in the Gulf? In one sense, it matters a great deal. The United States and its allies in the region have had great success in building a consensus for sanctions against Iraq. It is difficult to see how those sanctions can be made to work unless most states continue to support them. If the necessary degree of consensus is to be preserved, it is essential that Britain and America are not seen to be acting outside the law. The lawfulness of the response to Iraq is an essential feature in building and maintaining that consensus.

Conversely, the blatant illegality of Iraq's actions makes the maintenance of the consensus that much easier. Open defiance of fundamental principles of international law has a price. Iraq learnt that lesson after holding the

staff of the American embassy hostage in 1979-81. Attitudes towards Iraq during its war with Iran — which ranged from suspicion to outright hostility — had many causes, but the outrage at Iran's flouting of the principles of diplomatic relations was one of them. Iraq may now be realising that in taking civilian hostages and threatening diplomats, it has only encouraged the campaign to tighten sanctions against it.

A test of the effectiveness of the consensus may well be seen in the willingness of the Security Council to enforce sanctions against Iraq. Under the UN charter, all member states of the UN have a legal obligation to comply with the resolution — adopted without a dissenting vote — imposing sanctions on Iraq.

Although the matter has never really been tested, it is implicit in the charter that a state deliberately trading with Iraq might itself be subjected to enforcement measures if there were no other way of restoring international peace. Such action might be contemplated if, for example, the state were proved to be supplying arms to Iraq on a

large scale by air. Shipments of arms carried by sea may already be intercepted under existing resolutions. The willingness of the Security Council to take further action against a state giving material support to Iraq may be decisive in determining whether the Security Council can play a truly effective role.

On individual responsibility, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, has pointed out that individual Iraqis may be held responsible for violations of international law. While this principle has rarely been invoked since the war crimes trials at the end of the second world war, the machinery still exists. Under the Geneva Convention all states have a duty to track down and try, or extradite, those suspected of actions such as hostage-taking in occupied territory.

Such a sanction could be employed only after the present crisis is over, but employed it certainly could be. That may not influence Saddam Hussein, but it should give some of those who serve him pause for thought.

The author is a Fellow of Magdalene College, Cambridge.

Consider this verdict—and join me in my outrage

Bernard Levin takes issue with the coroner in the Waldock wife-death case who rode roughshod over a court's declaration of innocence

Some years ago there was a coroner who apparently decided that it was unfair for him to have been born to blush unseen: his solution to the problem was to make outrageous comments in the course of his work. In the hope, all too soon fulfilled, that the press would take note of him and print his quips and quiddities. His ghost has just popped up in Northumberland, where the coroner at Ashington has been shooting his mouth off in a most striking manner.

But this one is not trying to be noticed, nor, plainly, does he wish to be thought a card. Would that he were: harmless headline-chasing is, as its name implies, harmless. This coroner, Mr Ian McCreath, has said things, in the course of an inquest he was conducting, which go far beyond showing off. It could be said, indeed, that he has been guilty of a quite appalling breach of the spirit of our law.

The facts, in brief, are as follows. A British policeman, PC Alan Waldock, was on holiday in Portugal with his wife. In circumstances which could be thought sinister, Mrs Waldock drowned in a jacuzzi (whirlpool bath). PC Waldock was arrested in Portugal and charged with her murder. He was in custody for over a year before the trial, at which he was acquitted.

I do not know how Mrs Waldock died. Very few human concerns enable us to say that they are based on indisputable certainty. We have to live, and we do live, in a world of likelihoods, and this principle rules most powerfully in matters of law. No doubt God's justice is infallible, we, on earth, have to do the best we can with the human, fallible kind.

Now human, fallible justice is not random, nor is it by any means worthless. It is the best we can do: indeed, that was the title of a famous book about a famous trial, and our best has very frequently

indeed been quite enough. But if it is to continue to be the best we can do, there are some crucial principles to be observed. And I regret to say that the coroner at Ashington has most monstrously failed to act by one of the most crucial of the principles in question.

PC Waldock was tried and acquitted in a Portuguese court, under Portuguese law and within the Portuguese legal system. Portugal is a fully democratic country, with an independent judiciary and proper rules to ensure a fair trial for those who come before the courts, criminal or civil. And as far as PC Waldock is concerned, that is the end of that. Or rather, it ought to have been, and would have been, had not Coroner McCreath announced that the Portuguese verdict was wrong, and that he would proclaim the correct one, which was that PC Waldock is guilty.

In the course of the inquest on the dead woman, the coroner said, among other things, that he "found it hard to accept key sections of the evidence of PC Waldock", that "he was articulate and plausible, but my lasting impression was that he was as easy lying under oath as he was with the truth", that "he lied whenever it suited him", that he "found it difficult to believe" that PC Waldock's version of the incident was "honest and accurate in every respect", that he felt "very sceptical" about PC Waldock's evidence, that the acquitted man could "only be described as remarkably deceitful, so much so that I doubt his evidence", and finally, that "had the standard of proof been the balance of probabilities, I would have recorded a verdict of unlawful killing", but that as it had to be, by law, "beyond reasonable doubt" he was unable to convict PC Waldock off his own bat and therefore "recorded an open verdict".

Just stop and think what all that amounts to. Suppose that a pris-



oner had been tried for murder in the British jurisdiction and acquitted. Then suppose somebody outside the court, after the conclusion of the case, made statements in the words of this remarkable coroner. What would happen?

Well, the first thing would be an uproar the length and breadth of the land: the judge in his hypothetical case would probably lead the outcry, and if he didn't I certainly would. The second stage would be the acquitted man suing for libel, an action to which, in the circumstances, there could be no possible defence. This, however, is

precluded in this case, because Mr McCreath is protected by impeccable privilege, more's the pity.

Not that that is the most important aspect of this business. In practice, there will be no legal action, criminal or civil, nor would I wish any. What I want to emphasise is that just as our law is absolute, and absolutely right, in saying that if a man is charged with a crime, no one shall say that he is guilty until he has been tried and found guilty, so — whatever the law says on the subject — no one who has been tried and found not guilty should be accused of

guilt, and that those who do accuse him must do so at their peril. *Audetis acquiri* is the term which describes, in our law, the rule that a man charged, tried and acquitted may not be tried again for the same offence. PC Waldock is not being re-tried, but he has certainly been re-accused, and as if that were not enough, his accuser made clear that he would have found him guilty "if he had had the power to do so, by bringing in a verdict of 'unlawful killing'".

What next? First, it would be a good idea for whomsoever appoints coroners to suggest to this one that he might consider giving up the office fairly soon, and rather penitently. But that leads to a bigger question: why do we have coroners and do we need them?

The immediate answer is a cross between a gasp and a snort: how could something as important as the cause of death be decided without the coroner's office? Well, most of the countries of the world get on without them, and if Mr McCreath is about to say that that is all very well for foreigners (particularly, I suppose, the Portuguese) but it wouldn't do for Britain, I must remind him that Scotland has no coroner, by that or any other name. Yet goodly numbers of Scottish people continue to die by unnatural means or in suspicious circumstances, and the way they do it is determined with no great fuss.

When that poor devil Mervyn Griffith-Jones was, in the teeth of credulity, appointed a judge, it was not long before he made as big a fool of himself on the bench as he had in the well of the court during the *Lady Chatterley* case. In sentencing a group of men who had been found guilty of a serious crime, he announced that they had acted under the direction of another man named, who, so far from being tried and convicted, had not even been charged. The following day I weighed in with considerable savagery, and to my astonishment and satisfaction he promptly withdrew the scandalous remark in open court. It would do Mr McCreath no harm, and I think perhaps a great deal of good, if he were to do likewise. Meanwhile, the rest of us can get on with abolishing the coroner's office altogether.

When debate is not the ticket

MPs clamouring for the recall of Parliament to discuss the rumblings of war from the Gulf are apparently unaware of the financial burden it would impose on globe-trotting colleagues. Were Mrs Thatcher to bow to the pressure, MPs on holiday abroad would have to pay their own travel expenses home, or else miss the debate of the year.

For Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, it would not be much. He is under a parasol in France. But Labour MP Merlyn Rees, on a voyage of discovery in the Far East, and others far afield would be hundreds of pounds out of pocket.

Only those on official government business would be entitled to have their return fares paid by the Exchequer. One of the few of these is Sir Geoffrey Howe, last reported in Australia. The same dispensation applies to members of Commons committees on fact-finding missions abroad, but there are none of these at present.

"We will pay an MP's travel costs from his constituency to London," says an accountant in the Palace of Westminster fees office, which deals with MPs' expenses, "but I cannot recall any ruling that we have to pay an MP for returning from a holiday abroad. We only cover costs incurred within the UK."

Sir Charles Irving, Tory chairman of the Commons catering committee, describes this state of affairs as archaic. "If a company director had to return from Borneo for an important board meeting, his expenses would be paid by

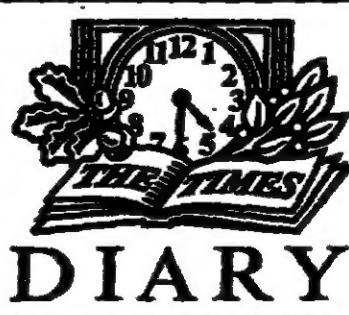
the company. MPs are just regarded as cheap labour."

Stan Orme, Labour chairman of the Commons administration sub-committee, counters: "If Parliament is recalled, it is the MP's responsibility to get back, no matter where he is. That is one of the hazards of the job." But Orme can afford to take a (literally) lofty view. He has gone no further than the Lake District.

The American custom of tying yellow ribbon to a tree or gatepost to help bring a loved one safely home is catching on here. On a front door in the Hertfordshire village of Codicote hangs a ribbon with the words: "All our hopes and prayers are for Kenneth Emsdon, held hostage in Kuwait."

Chariot of ire

German reunification is running into another spot of turbulence. Earlier this year the Quadriga, the 20th statue of Nike, the winged goddess of victory, and her four-horse chariot standing proudly atop the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, was removed for extensive cleaning. Now there is dispute over which way it should face when re-installed, for the intentions of the 18th-century sculptor, Schadow, have been obscured by events. Popular Berlin folklore says the Nazis turned the statue from facing east to face west, but that when the city was divided in 1945, the Russians turned it eastward again. West Berliners hope it will be put back, facing west, claiming that's how it was in the first place. They say it was stolen by Napoleon in 1807, recaptured after his defeat and was restored facing east as a reproach to the fallen emperor.



All nonsense, says Dr Sigrid Schmidt, West Germany's leading folklorist. Despite the tales told to tourists by the city's taxidivers, he says, the statue has always faced east and should do so again when restoration is finished in 1991, the 20th anniversary of its construction. Schmidt adds: "The legend has appeared in professional publications and all attempts to counter it have failed." So much so that the Berlin Monuments Commission says it has been flooded with requests that the statue should be replaced facing west. To satisfy everyone, how about putting it on a turntable so that it can face east one week and west the next?

Bolt from the blue

A play about the life and death of Sir Thomas More, partly ghosted by Shakespeare before he spread his wings, is to receive its London premiere next week, 398 years after it was written. Anthony Munday, the author, was not happy with some of the scenes and asked Shakespeare, then between jobs after the Queen's Men company had gone

bankrupt, to liven them up. "Shakespeare was then in his mid-thirties and basically a hack writer," says Michael Walling, artistic director of the Stage One Company, which presents the play at the Shaw theatre from September 4. "He helped Munday to hammer it into shape."

Because the Master of Revels, a predecessor of the Lord Chamberlain's office, demanded so many alterations, Munday decided to shelve the play. The only previous production, to Walling's knowledge, was at Nottingham in 1964. "Bizarre though it may be, ours is the London premiere."

The script containing Shakespeare's handwritten contribution is now at the British Library. The writing has been authenticated by Professor Stanley Wells of the Shakespeare Institute.

Hot property

Environmentalists demanding that Antarctica remain in its pristine state when the 39-nation treaty expires in 1992 are about to receive a little dramatic support. Channel 4 is considering a four-part environmental thriller set amid its icy wastes. The script was delivered last week by Paul Greengrass, the former Granada *World in Action* producer who co-wrote *Spaceman* with Peter Wright.

"It will be the first green thriller," he says, "something like *Traffic* set against a background of snow and ice. We hope the series will underline the campaign to keep Antarctica free from mining and other exploitation." Following the example of those car stickers — "Don't pollute Sussex, dump your litter in Kent" — he will envisage that not one square

inch of Antarctica is sullied by the 100-strong crew of cameramen, actors and production people. "We shall do all our location shooting in Canada."



Self-censorship

Harold Pinter, whose novel *The Distant* is to be published shortly by Faber and Faber after languishing in a bottom drawer for nearly 30 years, is not the only member of the family with a secret manuscript. Lady Longford, his mother-in-law, still has a one-act play written when she was a head-turning beauty at Oxford more than 60 years ago. "It's very metaphysical," explains the distinguished biographer of Queen Victoria and others. "When I wrote it I was only about twenty and thought it was brilliant. It won't be published because it isn't."

● *Blatant passengers delayed at Zurich airport the other day were surprised to find workmen arranging seats in the terminal building in preparation for the staging of a play. What else but Waiting for Godot?*



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RING AROUND IRAQ

Resolution 665 is as fine an example of verbal obfuscation as even the United Nations has ever fathered. In its proper aim of slowly strangling the regime of President Saddam Hussein, it nowhere mentions the words "enforcement" or "blockade".

For once, however, obscurity serves a useful purpose. Whereas the original American draft specified that naval commanders should use "minimum force", the final text gives them discretion to use "measures commensurate to the specific circumstances".

In plain English, their task is to blockade all Iraqi, Kuwaiti and Jordanian ports, halt all shipping, verify cargoes and destinations, and stop those breaking UN sanctions. How they do that — by boarding ships, taking the helm, or disabling their propellers and taking them in tow — is up to them.

The UN has moved with the speed of a tortoise but it has reached a notable staging-post on its way. Should Saddam retaliate against the blockaders, as he has threatened, he will be attacking the world. Saturday's security council resolution is not merely an enabling measure, an international legal umbrella for action by Western navies to enforce sanctions. It is a positive request to those states with maritime forces available to do whatever is necessary to bring all trade with Iraq to a halt, and to all the UN's other member states to provide them with whatever assistance they ask for.

The resolution is incomplete. It is silent, for example, on what can be done to prevent sanctions-busting by air or overland. Nor has the security council yet invoked article 42 of the charter, which would have opened the way to military action by "air, sea or land". But it is a good start.

In deference to the misgivings of some Third World members of the council, one paragraph calls for the "maximum use of political and diplomatic measures". But the context defines the goal: a complete Iraqi withdrawal and the restoration of Kuwaiti sovereignty. An important precedent has been set for further military action.

Diplomatically, the resolution is a triumph. China joined the other four permanent members in supporting it; none voted against and only Yemen and Cuba abstained. Militarily, enforcement is in practice still up to the

United States and its allies since the Soviet Union remains reluctant to commit its navy without a unified UN command. There is the responsibility to decide what force would be commensurate.

Resolution 665 should deter any foreign trader tempted to buy and sell from Iraq. The harder question is how best to deal with Iraqi vessels, several of which are now at sea with crews whose orders are not to halt even if fired on, and who face the death penalty back home if they permit boarding. Americans and Europeans should coordinate an offer of political asylum to all Iraqi crews who comply with international law.

Maintaining a tight naval blockade will not be easy, even with aerial surveillance and shared intelligence. Although the resolution should make a decisive difference to Iraq's supplies of food and consumer goods, Baghdad must also be deprived of all military materiel.

Libya is reported to be airfreighting such supplies, including equipment for chemical warfare, to Baghdad. There is no peaceful means of interdicting aircraft if they refuse to change course when "buzzed" by fighters: the alternatives are only to shoot them down or leave them to proceed. The security council should meet again to put governments under notice that sanctions-breaking by air will expose planes to the risk of destruction; should the council balk, Western governments may be compelled to act under article 51, as they have at sea and on land.

Iraq's room for manoeuvre has been further restricted by UN action this weekend. Those who, like President Waldheim, see this as the moment for compromise should think again. There can only be one message for Saddam: that if he is seeking to save face, he will be bowing to the international community, not the United States, in complying fully with UN resolutions. Nor can there be any assurance that, even if he does comply, he will face no penalties.

An impressive combination of diplomatic and military cooperation has compelled Iraq's president to forfeit allies, oil income and bitterly contested Iranian territory, but unless he surrenders unconditionally to UN terms, and is held accountable for his violations of international law, he will continue to be a threat. The blockade is only a means to an end.

BROTHERS IN LAW

Just when the shadow cabinet was quietly congratulating itself on the successful launch of its new trade union policy — not so new, in fact, as most of it is borrowed Tory policy — some TUC members have started to grow restless. They have marched, voted and expostulated, year after year, shoulder to shoulder, for the repeal of the entire Thatcher package. What is the point of financing and working for the return of a Labour government, they are asking themselves, if not to escape from the straitjacket of the laws in which the present government has tied them?

The Trades Union Congress is due to debate next month a statement from its general council which broadly endorses the results of the Labour policy review concerning industrial relations. One union, Nalco, is so unimpressed by the new Labour proposals that it is likely to try to organise a revolt against the party line. At its own conference earlier this year the union demanded the removal of the legal restrictions on picketing and the end of "state interference" in internal union affairs.

Many of the big barons of the movement who will speak and vote for the general council statement must have private sympathies along those lines, for their conversion on industrial relations is by no means a conversion of the heart. Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, has appealed to the dissidents not to rock the boat, on the nakedly cynical grounds that they could cost the Labour party the next election.

This has also been the message of Labour's employment spokesman Tony Blair — that if the unions want to live to see the implementation of Labour's policies on training, union recognition, a minimum wage, employment rights for women and so on, they will have to bite the bullet of pre-strike ballots, restrictions on picketing, statutory regulation of union elections, and court injunctions backed by sequestration. Mr Blair appears to believe

much of this "Tory law" is a good thing in itself, but if so he must still be in the minority among activists in the Labour movement.

What Labour is offering the country, in fact, is more or less the same framework as the Conservatives have already enacted, though with some shifting of the balance in favour of the unions. But the principle that trades unionism ought to be a law unto itself, outside the law of the land, dies hard. When Alan Jinkinson, Nalco's general secretary, says Labour is putting pressure on the TUC and its affiliates to "stand on their heads" he is speaking no less than the truth, and secretly they all know it.

The public knows it too, but is less interested in the TUC's sincerity than in the results. Sooner or later under a Labour government there is bound to be a confrontation between that government and one or more union, if only for the reason that it happens to every government. The 1979 "winter of discontent", though fading in many memories, has not been forgotten.

In order to appear credibly electable, Labour has to give a convincing impression that in such a case it will stand up for the law — even to the extent, if necessary, of seeing a recalcitrant or law-defying union brought to its knees. To have the TUC at least nominally supportive in such an event would be helpful.

None the less this is still second best. Labour has yet to free itself from the shackles that tie it to the trades union movement, both by union donations to Labour's coffers and by union block voting in Labour's internal decision-making. Only the one-member one-vote principle will do this, with party income based on individual membership subscriptions. The very idea of the "Labour movement" as a single political and industrial force needs to be retired. Then Labour could propose the policies it thinks best for the country, and the TUC could say what it really felt about them.

NEVER ON SUNDAY?

The ferry company Caledonian MacBrayne is steering into troubled waters off northwest Scotland by proposing to open a new service to the Western Isles on Sundays. Unless local sabbatarians stop it, the crossing from and to Tarbert in Harris will begin next spring. "Never on Sunday" will then have lost its local meaning.

This is not the company's first attempt. It backed down after a previous proposal when fishermen threatened to blockade the port's approaches. Similar opposition was promised on neighbouring Lewis following talk of launching a Sunday ferry to Stornoway. This plan has been dropped for commercial reasons and the company has refocused on Tarbert.

Recent history suggests that it will win. A Sunday service to North Uist began last year in spite of vigorous local opposition. The local authority even banned the use of its car ramp but vehicles were loaded through a side entrance instead. The ferry company says that there is sufficient demand for a Tarbert service, opinion on the islands is divided.

The issue is more than a case of Maminon versus God. While the profit motive certainly comes into it, the service proposed by Caledonian MacBrayne would take some pressure from crowded weekday ferries during the summer and would benefit residents and visitors alike.

Offering a facility for those who want to sail on Sundays does not oblige others to follow suit. Similar arguments apply to Sunday trading or the reform of the licensing laws in Britain. Everyone can make his or her choice.

To accuse the opposition of being killjoys intent on imposing on other people their own legitimate but narrow code of discipline is not, however, entirely fair. They can put forward a good counter argument to do with preserving Britain's rural heritage.

Television and the car have exposed even remoter parts of the country to the same national, metropolitan influences. In towns throughout the length and breadth of Britain, the shops, the streets, the council house estates have acquired a dreary, unappealing sameness. Those who want to preserve a shred of local character have an uphill struggle.

The argument of those in Harris and Lewis who oppose a Sunday ferry is that their way of life would be eroded if the seventh day came to resemble the other six. It would then be only a matter of time before life in the Western Isles resembled that of other country areas. People are free to come and go between Monday and Saturday. Could they not stay put on Sundays without suffering hardship? If the Western Isles lost their character they might even lose some of their attraction for tourists.

The Welsh Sunday has disappeared since the war in all but the most rural Welsh redoubts. As the chapels have shut the pubs have opened. Democracy has been faithfully observed, however, each area voting on the issue of Sunday drinking. That is the path for Harris and Lewis to follow. A local referendum on the issue might or might not support the stubborn sabbatarians. But it would settle the conflict on the islands in what would seem to be the fairest manner.

Aims and means in Gulf conflict

From Mr S. P. C. Plowden

Sir, The countries supplying the multinational force in the Gulf risk putting themselves gravely in the wrong unless they make a clear distinction between the means appropriate to each of their objectives.

The purpose of the force should be to deter, and, if necessary, repel an attack on Saudi Arabia. Assuming no further aggression by Iraq, there should be no attempt to liberate Kuwait by a military attack. We have the means, and must now display the patience, to achieve that aim by enforcing the UN embargo.

This should be done in a way that minimises the risk of escalation. There is no need to fire on ships which refuse to stop. Those ships, and other ships of the same line, should be denied facilities in ports throughout the world or should be impounded.

Yours faithfully,
S. P. C. PLOWDEN,
69 Albert Street, NW1,
August 23.

From Rear Admiral Conrad Jenkin

Sir, Ivor Richard and Judith Mart write (August 22) that "all countries involved should totally renounce the possible use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, even in retaliation, if armed conflict should occur".

We must ask ourselves whether a statement of renunciation on our part would increase or decrease the risk of these weapons being used against our men in the Gulf and against the millions of civilians in the area.

Bearing in mind Saddam Hussein's proven readiness to use such weapons, the answer to that question is simple. Provided he believed our assurance, the risk to our men would be increased. Any assurance from him would be worthless.

Yours sincerely,
CONRAD JENKIN,
Knapsford House,
West Meon, Hampshire,
August 23.

From Sir Cameron Moffat

Sir, I was delighted to read the thoughtful and balanced article by Alan McGregor on the International Committee of the Red Cross ("Peacemakers always on the front line", August 24). I feel it proper to point out, however, that it is not only the additional protocols which prohibit the use of civilians to shield military objectives.

Article 28 of the Fourth Geneva Convention (to which Iraq is a signatory) states: "The presence of a protected person may not be used to render certain points or areas immune from military operations".

Yours sincerely,
CAMERON MOFFAT
(Acting Director General),
British Red Cross Society,
9 Grosvenor Crescent, SW1,
August 24.

Occupied territory

From Mr Lawrence Radley

Sir, Robert Adley, MP (August 23) seeks to equate Israel's occupation of the West Bank with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. He has conveniently forgotten that Israel's occupation of the West Bank was a direct result of Jordan's unprovoked attack on Israel during the Six-Day War of 1967.

Jordan was warned to keep out of the conflict at that time but, wrongly believing that Israeli forces were over-extended in dealing with Egypt and Syria, chose not to do so. I do not recall Kuwait attacking Iraq.

Yours faithfully,
L. RADLEY,
55 Woodland Rise,
Muswell Hill, N10,
August 23.

From Mr Jerry Hayes, MP for Harlow (Conservative)

Sir, I am rather afraid that a long hot summer may have taken its toll on my colleague and friend Robert Adley. It is worth noting that only Britain and Pakistan ever recognised Jordan's annexation of the West Bank and I think it amiss to mention Lebanon without referring to Syria's army of occupation.

As to the Golan, surely no one would wish to return to the days when residents of Galilee were regularly shelled by Syrian forces dug in on the Golan Heights.

Yours etc.,
JERRY HAYES,
House of Commons,
August 23.

Palestinian education

From the General Secretary of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland

Sir, The Chairman of Unipal complains (August 21) that Israel has "forcibly" closed schools in the West Bank and Gaza and implies that it was done simply to deprive Palestinian youth of education.

He omits to mention that these schools and universities were closed after they had become hotbeds of violence and incitement in the intifada. In Bir Zeit University, for instance, arms and explosives have often been found as well as printing presses to produce militant anti-Israeli diatribes.

Had Israel indeed wished to deprive Palestinian youth of education since 1967 it would not have more than doubled the number of classrooms, teachers

WWF and plight of elephants

From Mr William Travers

Sir, Some of the comments made by Mr George Medley, UK Director of the World Wide Fund for Nature (August 13), concerning the role played by that organisation in the conservation world, particularly concerning the plight of the African elephant, need to be challenged.

Instead of leading the way for an ivory trade ban, as Mr Medley implies, the WWF appeared to many observers to be avoiding taking a stand on the issue. It was only after the launch of Elefriends, on May 30, 1989, and the decision a few days later by the British Government to support a trade ban, that the WWF took action.

Indeed, at last October's Cites (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) conference in Lausanne, the conservation organisations present fell into two distinct camps. The WWF, Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna (Commerce) and the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) — those who apparently were in favour of a "deal" with ivory-producing countries — occupied a room on their own.

The remainder — those who advocated an outright trade ban — including the Environmental Investigation Agency, the Humane Society of the United States, the World Society for the Protection of Animals, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, Friends of Animals, Elefriends, Care for the Wild and others took a different room.

With the resources at its disposal — over £20 million on deposit, it is reported — the WWF's expenditure of "£1.5 million on elephant conservation projects in Africa" over the last 12 months appears less than generous. Our experience as Elefriends is that many people have turned to us simply because their efforts seem not to be appreciated or valued by the WWF.

Following the recent spate of bad publicity, the WWF management has a lot of work to do restoring its good name with its own supporters, the general public, with its corporate sponsors and not least with the other environmental organisations that it claims to want to assist.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM TRAVERS,
Elefriends,
Cherry Tree Cottage,
Coldharbour,
Dorking, Surrey,
August 22.

Oil rigs and safety

From the Director General of the UK Offshore Operators Association Limited

Sir, Your editorial, "Striking for safety" (August 20), says that the oil industry is "not nearly as conscious enough about safety". This is quite untrue of an industry which takes safety very seriously.

The maintenance of a safe place of work is the foremost objective for all North Sea oil operators. Nor is there dispute about the need for a single, strong, regulatory body to ensure that safety standards are maintained at the highest level. Operators and unions are at one in wanting a more effective regulator.

There is no dispute, either, about the need for effective safety committees. All North Sea workers, as in Norway, already have the right to select and to elect their own safety representatives.

In this current unofficial action the Oil Industry Liaison Committee, the strikers' unofficial leadership, is seeking to curtail the rights of workers offshore so that only trade union members are

Paine obelisk

From Miss Mary Cosh

Sir, The Angel developers are pushing things a bit in trying to claim Tom Paine as "an unsung hero of Islington" (Daily August 20). At the time of writing *The Rights of Man*, Paine, Norfolk-born and living quite a while in America, seems to have been rather of no fixed abode, and stayed perhaps a few months in an Islington pub, Angel or Old Red Lion, working on part 1, before moving off to Paris to finish the job.

However an obelisk, if a rather heavy-handed commemoration of this tiny episode in the contribution to liberty, has some historical relevance. Before the Victorians replaced it by the famous "Smith's Clock" there was once an obelisk near the Angel junction, put up in 1824 by the City Turnpike Trust.

Yours faithfully,
MARY COSH,
10 Albion Mews,
Thornhill Road, N1,
August 21.

Walking aid

From Mr R. Hill-Sanders

Sir, The beagles of Essex greatly favour the thumb stick (Letters, August 13, 17, 22) because in addition to its stabilising value over heavy plough, it greatly assists in negotiating barbed-wire fences.

Our county is well supplied with rusty and dilapidated three-strand barbed-wire fences. The trick is to hoist the top strand up in the crook of the stick and push the stick as near vertical as possible, ramming the bottom in the ground, where it remains while the beagles go through the gap created. Then the beagles may use the thumb stick to pole-vault the steep-sided water-filled ditch which usually lies just beyond every Essex barbed-wire fence.

Yours faithfully,
R. HILL-SANDERS,
Crown Cottage, 2 Lodge Road,
Messing, Colchester, Essex.
August 22.

Reductions in heart surgery

From the President of the British Cardiac Society

Sir, The news (report, August 16) that Barts has had to suspend for a month all but emergency services in cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery is the latest in a series of reductions of service affecting our major cardiothoracic centres, as indeed they are affecting other services. Needs are not being met and new reductions are regrettable.

In the joint report of the Royal College of Physicians of London and the Royal College of Surgeons of England published in 1985, a recommendation was made for the provision of 400 to 500 coronary artery bypass operations or balloon angioplasties per million population if reasonable needs were to be met. (Balloon angioplasty is a method of dilating a narrowed coronary artery by inserting an inflatable balloon via an artery in the groin.)

This objective of 400 to 500 cases was a modest target, well below present perceptions of need, contrasting for example with a total of approximately 2,000 per million (both procedures) in the United States where mortality from coronary disease is lower than here.

The latest figures, however, show that no more than 330 procedures per million were provided in the United Kingdom as recently as 1988, and the yearly rate is unlikely to have increased by now. Waiting lists both for radiological investigation of the coronary arteries and for surgery are long — the aggregate is two years or more in some centres. But even this does not reflect the mismatch between reasonable demand and inadequate supply.

Cardiologists ration scarce resources and many patients never reach the waiting list; instead they may endure severe symptoms that are resistant to medical treatment. The elderly are particularly neglected, though the results of surgical intervention in this important sector of the community can be impressive.

Funding, we are frequently told, is limited. So it is in other countries, but most have different priorities from ours.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS CHAMBERLAIN,
President,
British Cardiac Society,
7 St Andrew's Place,
Regent's Park, NW1,
August 20.

Lawyers' efficiency

From his Honour Judge John Sheerin

Sir, May I comment on your leading article, "A surfeit of lawyers" (August 16). It is only on three occasions in over seven years on the Bench as a circuit judge that I have had Queen's Counsel appear before me. In 25 years of practice as a solicitor in country practice, occupied almost exclusively in litigious matters, I estimate that I have instructed a leader and junior on no more than 10 occasions and, in those cases where two counsel were instructed, they were required.

I suspect that the problem of overmanning that you seek to identify is, in truth, unreal. Constant repetition of litigiousness gives an undesired validity to the assertion and at the same time distracts attention from the daily industry that is to be found in the county and crown courts throughout the land. We do not take summer vacations. The courts never close.

Yours truly,
JOHN SHEERIN,
Ipswich County Court,
Ipswich, Suffolk.

Walking aid

From Mr R. Hill-Sanders

Sir, The beagles of Essex greatly favour the thumb stick (Letters, August 13, 17, 22) because in addition to its stabilising value over heavy plough, it greatly assists in negotiating barbed-wire fences.

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Yours faithfully,
R. HILL-SANDERS,
Crown Cottage, 2 Lodge Road,
Messing, Colchester, Essex.

Bunnies in law

From Mr John Harvey

Sir, Your correspondent, Master Lewis Jones (for it is he, August 22), refers to Peter Rabbit being under the age of criminal responsibility and thus not subject to the full rigours of the law for his so-called "crimes" against Mr McGregor and his garden. Pooh-sticks! In fact, P.R. was a freedom fighter engaged in rural terrorism against a system which supported a bloated, land-owning capitalist. Old McGregor wanted very much to *flickeer* our hero, and would surely have done so on several occasions had there not been staunch chums on hand imploring Peter to exert himself in escape attempts. So much for justice!

Yours etc.,
JOHN HARVEY,
Boswell Cottage, 19 South End,
Croydon, Surrey,
August 22.

Shaping up for the war dance



As a German POW, 'Jimmy' Atkinson, left, conceived one of Scotland's most popular reels. Alastair Robertson charts its success

On June 5, 1940, at about 3pm, near the northern French town of Saignesville, the short active service life of Lt J.E.M. "Jimmy" Atkinson of the 7th Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders came to an end. Surrounded, his wrist-watch shot off, two brain-jangling dents in his tin hat and a life expectancy measurable in minutes, the 26-year-old subaltern scrambled to his feet and five years of captivity.

Had he not, Scottish country dancing would almost certainly have been deprived of one of the most popular reels ever invented — the Reel of the 51st Division.

This September, as every September since the war, it will be danced at Scottish balls from Perth to Portree. The reel, or the less-structured Aberdeenshire version of it which evolved in 1976 to the consternation of some dancers, is danced in Caledonian clubs from Santiago to Tokyo and by the royal family at the Balmoral Ghillies Ball. Whenever a few itchy-footed Scots are gathered, at Hogmanay, St Andrew's Night or any propitious occasion, they will dance the steps that were worked out almost 50 years ago by a handful of POWs in the autumn of 1940.

The idea came to Lt Atkinson as he was marched across The Netherlands to prison camp in Germany. "I started thinking about dance tunes to keep my mind off grizzly thoughts and this idea began to form." At the core of the dance were the diagonal bars of the cross of St Andrew, the badge of the Highland Division to which his regiment belonged. Days earlier the regiment had surrendered at the Normandy port of St Valéry-en-Caux.

The mixed bag of Highland Division officers ended up at Oflag VIIIC, Laufen Castle, near Salzburg. There, Lt L.P.J. "Peter" Oliver, of the 4th Seaforth and formerly of the London Scottish, had started Highland dancing classes. Lt Atkinson, who was more a country than a Highland dancer, joined and soon a reel club was formed.

Now 77 and living in Alloa, Mr Atkinson remembers: "I told Peter about this idea I had for a dance and in, I think, November 1940, it was fine, except we had some problems with the opening eight bars." The answer was supplied by the former commanding officer of the Royal Army Service Corps, 51st Highland Division, Lt-Col Tom Harris Hunter, who had been chairman of the Perth branch of the Scottish Country Dance Society before the war. Lt-Col Hunter based his sugges-

tion on the opening of another dance, Lady Susan Stewart's Reel. By Christmas 1940, meeting three times a week in the prison hospital block, whistling ill-remembered tunes for want of instruments, the reel club had worked out the dance which is, to all intents and purposes, the dance it is today.

The steps were sent home. But German security was suspicious of the series of hieroglyphics and numbers: "Cast off three places, 5 to 8, lead up to top corners, 9 to 12." A demonstration was arranged for the Germans by Lt-Col Hunter, and although Lt Atkinson's instructions never arrived home, Lt-Col Hunter eventually did. He later recalled: "I think the Germans just thought we were a little mad."

Back home in Perth, Mrs Hunter and her wartime dance club worked out the steps and distributed copies. To her astonishment, requests for more copies started coming in from all over the country, and more than £150 was raised for the Red Cross. Some time in 1942, the dance appears to have reached London. After the war, Mr Atkinson confirmed privately that Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret had danced the 51st at a wartime Caledonian Ball in London.

Letters from home revealed the dance was being known on some occasions as the St Valéry Reel, after the port where the Highland Division had surrendered. But the dance had been officially named at Oflag VIIIC, Warburg, the camp to which many of the POWs were moved after Laufen. On Halloween, 1941, in No. 2 dining hall, the dance received its first public demonstration before Maj-Gen Sir Victor Fortune, who had commanded the 51st at St Valéry. The performance was a mark of esteem and affection for his work on behalf of the POWs and he gave permission for the dance to be named the 51st Country Dance (Laufen Reel). It later became, probably at the request of Lt-Col Hunter and the reel club, who were perhaps unenthusiastic about celebrating St Valéry, the Reel of the 51st Division, the name used today.

In spite of its popularity at home, the dance had still, by 1944, not been accepted by the Scottish Country Dance Society (SCDS). Started in 1923 by the Girl Guides, the society is to country dancing what the Lord Lyon King of Arms is to Scottish heraldry. But the 51st did not conform to the society's norms and was not included in the first 12 collections of dances presented in a bound volume to the Queen, now the Queen Mother. The absence of the

51st appears to have been spotted by the Queen. "Her Majesty expressed the wish that the society include it in its next book," Muriel Hadden, the society's secretary of the day, recalled later. And it was, but in SCDS form, the form which largely prevails today.

In the meantime, the dancing continued in Germany and it was taught, at the request of their commanding officer, to a party of young Canadian officers captured during the Dieppe Raid. By the end of the war, the dance was well established. And with Mr Oliver now working for the public relations department of Shell, the oil company, the dance set off round the world.

Mr Oliver's widow, Mary, living near Bantle in Sussex, remembers: "He was an indefatigable dancer. Everywhere we went in the world — we had 20 moves in 20 years — he got a reel club going if there was not one already. We danced in China, Singapore, Lagos and goodness knows where, and usually in the most appalling heat. And yes, of course, we danced the 51st."

In 1976, however, a new element crept in — the Aberdeenshire version, dreamed up at an 18th birthday party at Stanley Village Hall, outside Perth, by three young men from



Keeping step with the past: the Reel of the 51st Division at the Donside Ball in Inverurie Town Hall

Aberdeenshire, Ronnie Bradford, of Kincardine O'Neil, Melfort Campbell, of Altries, and Robin Baxter, of Aquhorthies.

In the interests of a bit of fun and getting as many people dancing as possible, they had every other couple starting at the same time and continuing the length of the hall, ignoring the traditional sets.

The innovation became a huge success, but transformed the dance in some eyes from a genteel but lively reel to something more akin to the rumbustious and limb-endangering Strip The Willow.

Indeed, the Aberdeenshire version is not allowed at the Skye Balls, where Ruairidh Hillier, the secretary, cheerfully complains: "It ruins a perfectly good dance; a sort of ghastly herd instinct. I couldn't disapprove of it more."

Whether the Aberdeenshire version is new is debatable. "We tried the dance in all sorts of ways, even as a sort of gavotte with a great deal of exaggerated bowing and scraping to each other, and I am not at all sure we didn't try it this new way," Mr Atkinson says.

But why is the dance so popular? It is comparatively simple for even a

novice to pick up, and it is less demanding than that other high octane favourite, the Duke of Perth. Despite the dance's relative youth, it possesses a delightful 18th-century courtliness and a special elasticity which springs dancers effortlessly into their next move.

Quite unwittingly, its originators had built in a couple of bars which, Mr Atkinson grins, "give you a moment or two to steady up if you've had a drink". The dance's standard tune is now "The Drunken Piper", although in camp it was danced to "My Love She's But a Lassie Yet". Of the tunes written in camp, one was lost and the other has never been used.

Mr Atkinson is the only survivor of the original figures involved. He is amused by the popularity of the dance. "It is extraordinary, isn't it? Even my daughter in Chile says it is their favourite dance at parties." But he adds: "You must remember that it was very much a team effort. Take one name out of the equation and it would not exist."

But exist it does. And at its core, the shape that gave Lt Atkinson his idea — the Cross of St Andrew, badge of the 51st Highland Division.

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Ornate tales from the Raj

London's Indian summer of exhibitions has renewed interest in the treasure houses built by the nabobs

London will have an Indian summer this year, with two splendid exhibitions already open, another scheduled for October and then the great November inauguration of the Nehru Gallery at the Victoria & Albert Museum. Holiday-makers travelling around Britain can catch up on another Indian legacy: the houses the nabobs built when they came back to Britain, loaded with money, and the royal houses inspired by the breathtaking architecture of the then mysterious sub-continent.

The British who worked in India during the 17th and 18th centuries often went native: they learnt the local languages, married Indian wives, smoked hookahs and dressed in Indian clothes. In *Vanity Fair*, Thackeray draws a caricature of these pretentious nabobs with his Jos Sedley, the former Collector of Bogley Wallah. Like Jos, they would retire to England, having made vast fortunes and continue to live in oriental splendour surrounded by their Indian servants. Descendants of these men, cushioned with great fortunes, often became active in politics and we have Indian money to thank for at least three British prime ministers: the two Pitts and A.J. Balfour.

The nabobs also built themselves splendid mansions, usually in the classical style, in which they housed the treasures they had brought home. Robert Clive, the man who established British rule in India, came back in 1769 with £250,000 (£5.5 million at today's prices). He bought 45 Berkeley Square, in London, and commissioned Vanbrugh to build him a house at Clarendon, in Surrey. Many of his Indian treasures are now on display at Powis Castle in Wales.

Richard Barwell, who returned with an estimated fortune of £400,000 (£8 million today), built Stansted Park at Rowlands Castle, in Sussex, which was destroyed by fire at the turn of the century. In 1783, the architect John Carr of York, completed Basildon Park, near Pangbourne, for Sir Francis Sykes.

Few people who had not visited India had any idea of Indian architecture. The impact of the work of two gifted artists on educated opinion in Britain was enormous. Between 1786 and 1793, Thomas Daniell and his nephew travelled all over India making detailed sketches of buildings and sculpture. When they returned to England they spent 13 years turning their sketches into 144 aquatints, which they sold in sets of six for the then princely sum of £210 a set. For the first time, British architects had an accurate idea of the superb design of Indian buildings.

The architect George

Dance, who had seen earlier aquatints by William Hodges, had introduced Indian influences into his redesigned south facade of the Guildhall in 1788. However, it was at Sezincote, in Gloucestershire, where the Indian style was to bloom. In 1806, the nabob Sir Charles Cockerell commissioned his architect brother, Samuel Pepys Cockerell, to rebuild the house. With its gilded onion domes and minarets inspired by the Danell aquatints depicting the beautiful gate of the Lahl Baur, the garden of the Siraj-ud-Daulah's palace in Faizabad, and its garden designed largely by Thomas Daniell, it remains one of the most exotic jewels of the English countryside. The Indian style carries through even to the farm buildings, the gardener's house and the stables. Nearby, in the village of Lower Swell, stand the only "Indian" cottages in Britain.

Always avant-garde in his taste, the Prince Regent had already adopted the new Indian style when he commissioned William Porden to design the royal stables at Brighton, which were finished in 1806. (Now converted into the Dome concert hall, the stables were inspired by Daniell's engraving of the Great Mosque at Delhi.)

Nash presented two proposals and, true to his nature, the prince chose the more extreme. The Pavilion took from 1804 until 1822 to complete and cost £500,000. Its minarets, onion domes and delicate stone work still make it unique in Britain.

Curiously Queen Victoria hated the Pavilion, although in later life she became deeply attached to all things Indian and even had her Indian secretary, Abdul Karim, teach her Hindustani. She commissioned Lockwood Kipling, the father of Rudyard and the director of the Lahore School of Art, to design the Durbar Room, which was built on to her favourite house, Osborne, in the late of 19th. The elaborate carved walls and ceiling were the work of Bhairam Singh, an Indian craftsman who had worked on a billiard room for the Queen's son, the Duke of Connaught, at Bagshot Park.

GERALDINE RANSON

© *Calcutta, City of Palaces*, at the British Library, London WC1, until September 30.
© *Tigers Round the Throne: The Court of Tipu Sultan*, at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW7, until October 14.
© *The Raj: India and the British 1600-1947*, at the National Portrait Gallery, London WC2, October 17-March 17, 1991.
© *The Nehru Gallery*, at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW7, will be opened by the Queen on November 22.

Ghost in the modern kitchen

Could Mrs Beeton's Victorian virtues be of use to today's working woman?

Beeton Traditional House-keeping Today. It is due to appear in early December: in time for the sizzling, branded clichés of Christmas Victorianism. The magazine's selling point is recipes based on Mrs Beeton's and its target market of 50,000 consists, says its publisher, of "working mothers looking for alternatives to pre-cooked foods and microwave dishes". Contemporary women, says its editor, can learn lessons from Victorian lifestyles. This is perhaps the moment for those contemporary women to narrow their eyes a little and ask what, if anything, those lessons are.

Mrs Beeton was a woman of her time. The eldest of 21 children, she was married at 20 and spent the next four years beaver- away at her great book of cookery and housekeeping. Disregarding the odd patches of pompous, class-ridden, sexist cant — for which a young Victorian can hardly be blamed — it well deserves its lasting fame. It was a long time before anybody did it better, or at all.

The central tenet of the book, however, is that our heroine is mistress of at least a cook and kitchenmaid, and probably a half-dozen other servants. Their wages would total less than one-eighth of the family income; her house rent another eighth. A "plain family dinner" entailed three courses and several meats. A

typical Monday menu in August would be baked sole, cold veal and bacon, salad, mutton cutlets and tomato sauce, followed by boiled currant pudding. That was her life and her period: a time when it was both easy and hard to be a middle-class woman. Despite all her success, Mrs Beeton lost two of her four children and was dead herself at 29.

At that age, her modern sister may be only just considering marriage. For better or worse, she has become a worker — a philosopher in petticoats, or perhaps a virago queen of industry. Her home will cost her a good deal more than an eighth of the family income, and as for servants, whereas an au pair may be found for a time, the chances of training her to fry oysters correctly before she decamps back to Stock-holm are pretty slim. On the other hand, the modern woman has refrigeration, instant heat and a plethora of imported vegetables which would have freed Mrs Beeton from her endless round of turnips and French beans. Most importantly, she has a wide international tradition: she can make spaghetti, bolognese, quick kebabs and cold ratatouille. Even if she belongs to the economic classes which, in Mrs Beeton's time, would have dined chiefly on potatoes and oatmeal, the modern woman has access to better food than most Victorian matrons.

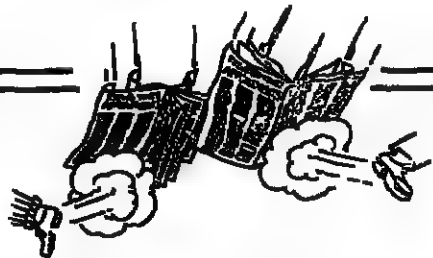
We shall see. But on past form, what will happen is more likely this. The magazine will look sumptuous and beautiful. It will arouse many sentimental feelings about crimped skate, larded hare, carrot pudding and oyster sauce. When we have finished this mental feast, we shall notice that there are only ten minutes to supper-time, and start rooting around disconsolately in the freezer for something calorie-counted, ozone-friendly and microwaveable. In a plastic bag.

The relevance of the Beeton recipes is virtually nil. Christina Hardyment, who wrote *From Mangle to Microwave*, a history of housework, choked on her coffee in disbelief at the idea of offering them to a modern working mother: "This sort of thing is fantasy; we like the wood and the old-fashioned pans, and we ignore the nitty-gritty, up-at-five-thirty routine it all entailed."

On the other hand, aspects of Mrs Beeton might well be modernised. Her clear-eyed attention to the natural history, slaughtering and butchering of meat animals is enviably relevant in an age when consumer ignorance has contributed so much to the growth of unnatural farming. Her stress on family meal-times is in tune with modern childcare ideas. Above all, Miss Hardyment reckons, her managerial philosophy is ripe for revival.

Libby Purves

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CINEMA: FESTIVALS

Mining the world screens for silver

Geoff Brown reports from the Edinburgh Film Festival — one of the many worldwide festivals celebrating the celluloid medium

Nearly every week throughout the year, someone, somewhere is attending a film festival. The precise number of these curious events cannot be estimated, though a recent calculation arrived at a rough figure of 500-plus. The big three of Cannes, Berlin and Venice (opening next week) are just the iceberg's tip. Slither far enough down the slopes and you might find yourself attending the documentary showcase at Yamagata, Japan, the Mountain, Exploration and Adventure Festival in Trento, Italy, or heaven forbid, the Gaborovo biennial devoted to comedy films in Bulgaria. During the past week alone, three festivals have been running concurrently: in Edinburgh, in Haugesund (Norway), and at Vevey — Chaplin's home on Lake Geneva, where another comedy festival is trying to tickle its audiences to death.

Faced with this mad excess of celluloid, the obvious question is: why? Film festivals exist for motley reasons, and the glory of cinema is not necessarily among them. Tourism and civic pride come high on the list. Political considerations also play a part, though rather less than in the days when the Berlin festival launched itself as a proud Western showcase on the cold war's frontline, or when Mussolini used Venice (the first festival to be established, in 1932) as a convenient platform for film propaganda.

Of course, the art and business of cinema matters: local audiences see a far wider range of products than they might otherwise manage, and film-makers get a launching pad that can win them friends, publicity, and distribution. But worthy, artistic goals can easily be squeezed by the social whirl or the ambitions of politicians running away with a generous budget: in the event's brief life during the mid-Eighties it was certainly hard to view the Manila International Film Festival — "The Festival with a Cause" — as the doughty slogan — as anything other than a ludicrous jamboree designed to glorify the Marcos regime.

Festival audiences vary, like the events themselves, from place to place. Some are dominated by students and others from the locality, though invited guests and delegates elbow them out at the most prestigious venues, like Cannes and Venice. Scribes descend from bither and yon, the bigger names wafting around with all expenses paid, either by their newspapers or, preferably, their kindly festival hosts. Depending on the festival's scale, distributors and television buyers add to the elite throng, seeking out products and enjoying the parties.

Directors of other film festivals come to tawny for their own events: it is an incestuous business. Film-makers watch the unveiling of their precious work, throw a tantrum at the projection facilities, and run the press gauntlet. Most have not journeyed too far, though a scattering of international luminaries does wonders for a festival's profile. Even Edinburgh, working on a lowly hospitality budget, managed to inveigle Clint Eastwood, directors John Landis and Bertrand Tavernier, the composer Quincy Jones, and David Putnam.

There is no law stating that a film festival needs to dish out awards, though a competition, with or without a cash prize at the end, stimulates useful publicity for the winning entrant. In the past, Edinburgh frowned on prizes. Last year two were introduced; this year, they mushroomed to four (see table).

Films by new directors are a special boon to festivals without the leverage to go after the big guns. Thematic groups come in handy to fill out the schedule: Edinburgh offered black cinema and Aids. The latter section ranged from the angry documentary of Roma von Praunheim to Norman René's fictional *Longtime Companion*, following the fortunes of several gay Americans through the Eighties: for all its smooth packaging, the film came closer than most Aids dramas to the pain of suffering and bereavement.

Retrospectives form another key festival ingredient. When the day's line-up offers little beyond a corking feminist tract from Tunisia or some hilarious Dutch slapstick comedy, treasures from the archives become a life-giving oasis. A hard core who trek to Locarno every August would never make the journey were it not for the festival's excellent, often esoteric surveys of the history of cinema: the films of the Russian absurdist Boris Barnet, shown in 1985, were a particular delight.

Edinburgh, this year, hosted two retrospectives. One surveyed the output of John Landis, prompting a controversy that rumbled throughout the festival: why devote precious money and space to a director whose work is easily available on video, television, and in the nation's Odeons? The only total novelty in the haul was *Amazon Women on the Moon*, a 1987 sketch film, co-directed with four others, including Joe Dante. The film — by turns vulgar, endearing, tiresome and threadbare — missed British distribution, though there seems no



Eighties' Aids drama: Norman René's *Longtime Companion*, showing at the Edinburgh Festival, with Mark Lamos (left) and Bruce Davison

overwhelming reason why: its swipes at American popular culture are no better or worse than in many other films inspired by the zany humour of American television's *Saturday Night Live*.

Pupi Avati's retrospective, however, offered Edinburgh audiences the genuine thrill of discovery: they responded gratefully, and many shows were sold out. Behind

the strange name lies a current Italian director, though none of his 20 or so films have so far received commercial distribution in Britain. *A Story of Boys and Girls*, completed last year, might provide the breakthrough: there is a warning charm and impressive narrative sweep to this portrait of two families.

Charm, in fact, is an Avati specialty. Occasionally, it is applied too thickly for British tastes: *A School Excursion*, conjuring up the memories of a trip into the Apennines in 1914, almost drowns in saccharine nostalgia. But a film like *We Three*, a fetching tale of the 14-year-old Mozart visiting Bologna for a musical exam, fairly dances through the projector, delicately balancing adolescent frolics with the spectre of life's solemn tread, of infirmity, death and madness.

It is too early to tell whether any Avati films will have a chance to beguile wider audiences in Britain. But Edinburgh has served one of its festival's best functions by increasing the probabilities. Now I must pack my bags for September's festival itinerary: Venice, Toronto, the Dutch Film Days, San Sebastian, Reykjavik, Tokyo, Vancouver, and Italy's Funny Film Festival at Darfo Boario Terme.

EDINBURGH FILM FESTIVAL PRIZES

- The Charles Chaplin Award for the best film by a new director: *Circus Boys* directed by Kaizo Hayashi
- The Michael Powell Award for an outstanding British film: *Silent Screams* directed by David Hayman
- The Post Office McLaren Award for outstanding British animation: *Grand National* directed by Susan Loughlin
- The Young Film-maker of the Year Award for the best student film-maker: Jointly to *Spotters* directed by Peter Cattaneo and *Meobius Strip* directed by Lucasz Karwowski

MUSIC FESTIVAL: MONTEPULCIANO, ITALY

Musical highlights on a hill

Stephen Pettitt
on the revival of an
international festival
for musicians in an
Italian hill town

Fourteen years ago, the German composer Hans Werner Henze directed the first *Cantiere Internazionale d'Arte* in the beautiful, small medieval town of Montepulciano, which sits high on a hill in southern Tuscany. It was a bold experiment, designed to stimulate the local people's artistic instincts and to provide an intense working environment for the musicians who go there.

To an extent it has succeeded in its aims. The Institute of Music was quickly reconstituted from a position where it consisted only of two old, untuned, upright pianos with nobody to play them, and the people of the town have, over the years, made their own contributions, so that the *cantiere* is the annual focus of the town's musical culture. In fact, the event is now almost as much a part of local tradition as the local *chianti* — the famous Vino Nobile di Montepulciano (1985 riserva especially recommended).

Each July the town braces itself for the influx of unpaid, usually young and high-spirited, musicians from abroad. The man in the little cafe on the spectacular *piazza grande* puts his prices up to an astronomical level, while most other people welcome the change in a place where not much usually happens.

With all its tradition, the *cantiere* has a far from secure history. Once again this year it relied heavily on the Pied Piper

personality of Henze, who relinquished control of the festival to the conductor, Jan Latham-Koenig, in 1981. Under Latham-Koenig's direction, the *cantiere*'s fortunes dwindled until there were only 15 students at the institute. Then, a year ago, Henze returned to join his colleague Gastón Fournier Fazio, the *animatore* of Montepulciano's musical life in the Seventies, as joint artistic director. This year the roll is back to 300.

The word *cantiere* means workshop, which implies rather more than an intense programme of private rehearsal and public performance. Only in Johannes Brahms's ingenious programme of chamber music by women composers (from Barbara Strozzi onwards) was anything like a workshop atmosphere approached, and then only because Fournier Fazio gave brief, spoken introductions to each piece.

Fewer pieces, and carefully guided discussions or question and answer sessions after them might have brought audiences closer to the music. But one excellent feature of this series was that local musicians (mostly teachers at the Institute) played an active role, giving pieces transcribed, or in the case of Barbara Heller's *Im Feuer ist mein Leben verbrant* — a lament for a friend killed in an air crash — specifically composed for them. There were relatively few works as startling (though the La Roche Quartet found some excellent new pieces in their recital), but the point of Brahms's project was that it was an open forum ungoverned by severe quality control.

These concerts took place in the vaulted, tiny Teatro San Biagio, named after Sangallo's magnificent 16th-century church where, in past years, the major concerts were given. That is no longer

possible, due to a church decree forbidding money to be taken at the gates of such establishments. Therefore, this year the orchestral music, played by the excellent young *Parnassus Ensemble*, was performed in the newly restored church of San Francesco.

I caught an impressive new violin concerto, *The Dimension of Clouds*, by the Turkish composer Sidika Ozdil, played by Peter Sheppard in the same concert as a curiously awkward account of Mozart's Symphony No 39, both conducted by Markus Stenz.

Back at the Teatrino, Sheppard also gave a violin recital which included Henze's exquisite *Cinque Notturni*, written for him earlier this year, while the German pianist, Martin Zehn, bravely took over the indisposed Penelope Roskell's four programmes of Schubert and recent piano music lock, stock and barrel. His account of Schubert's B Flat Sonata hinted at a considerable talent, though one that has some maturing to do.

The focus of the *cantiere*, however, was clearly on the theatrical work, especially Henze's own production of his 1983 opera, *The English Cat*. Staged intimately and simply for the small, late 18th-century Teatro Poliziano, and with one or two judicious cuts from an expansive score, this essay on class and hypocrisy came across with a striking new immediacy, particularly on the first of its two nights. London audiences will be able to judge for themselves if the production reaches the Henze festival next January.

The cast included, among others, John Oakley-Tucker as an appropriately impetuous Tom; the pathetic, uncomplaining Minette of Sally Harrison; the opportunistic Babette of Ellen Andressen; and a suitably pompous Lord Puff in Julian Pike.

TELEVISION

Arts in ten ticks

PROGRAMME delegates to this year's Edinburgh Television Conference can face each other today over the expense-account porridge without the usual embarrassment about bank holiday weekend scheduling, since this one has been unseasonably strong in new documentaries. What they might care to consider instead this morning is why coverage of the Edinburgh Festival has fallen away so badly.

If the end of last week was anything to go by, Edinburgh arts coverage on ITV seems now to consist largely of Richard Jobson shouting at foreign acrobats in the dark. Where once the Festival was the subject of long and careful arts programming, it has this year been fragmented into the dreaded 10 format derived from the local London late-night ITV programme of that name, in which performing arts qualify for about ten seconds per subject.

For Edinburgh on Friday we did at last get Ned Sherrin as a guest presenter, though even he was sent wobbling off on a motorbike at a thousand words a second. Could someone tell the team at 10 that arts is not just another word for listings, and that some viewers, quite like watching them for longer than it takes to switch a channel.

To launch a revised repeat of Granada's brilliant *Cities At War* series, Channel 4 on Saturday premiered a co-production with French television which looked at Paris under the occupation as remembered by survivors of both sides. Among the ritual recollections of resistance were some rarer insights — a journalist remembered Nazi leaders saluting Paul Claudel on the first night of one of his plays, while a shopkeeper recalled seeing movie posters next to announcements of imminent executions. The black-and-white format here, a witness filmed in close-up while, on a background screen, newsreel footage tells the rest of the story, has never been improved: history by gossip is often the most informative.

For BBC 1's *The Great Picture Chase* yesterday, Ian Hislop went out to price cartoons for the BBC art collection, though as editor of *Private Eye* he could have been expected to know something of their market value. What emerged is that we are curiously unwilling to pay for what we most want to laugh at — people depicted in cartoons usually expect to be given them for nothing by a grateful artist.

But the going rate now is apparently ten modern cartoons or one Gillray for £500, though cartoonists remain an irritably modest lot — one talked about his work as printed polyfills while Michael Heath, the best in the modern business, reckoned his work was bought by weight and mainly used for covering damp patches in bathrooms. In the end, Hislop finished up with a job lot of ancient and modern jokes in frames: what the BBC will now do with them remains to be seen, though they could do worse than hang them in the corridor outside the comedy department and try for a few laughs that way.

There were no laughs at all in *Everyman's* "A Life On Trial" (BBC 1), though its hero will probably soon become fictionalised in a Hollywood detective series. Casey Cohen is a private investigator who specialises in talking down death sentences by special pleading. Faced with a Los Angeles cop convicted of contract killing, armed robbery, attempted murder and sexual assault, Cohen managed to get him off with a life sentence, though on this occasion only the most dedicated anti-executioners are likely to think that justice was done.

Finally, movie programmes seem to have gone very soft in the summer heat: Channel 4's Saturday series of *Hollywood Legends* (this week William Holden) is breathtakingly uncritical, while *Belle and the Glory Boys* last night on BBC 2 was an extended 45-minute trailer for the forthcoming David Putnam film. At least over on ITV they make you pay for commercials like this, though the main effect of the BBC 2 programme was to make one year to see not the new Putnam drama, but the 1943 William Wyler documentary from which it is derived.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

CABARET

Eau is for One Night Stand

Carol Sarler talks to Sean Hughes, winner of the Perrier comedy award

Ten years ago, joining in with the plethora of awards and sponsorships that garnish the Edinburgh Festival, Perrier introduced its annual award for the best new comedy or revue on the Fringe. That year it was won by the Cambridge Footlights, among their number such *ingenues* as Stephen Fry, Hugh Laurie and Emma Thompson.

This weekend, accompanied by almost Oscar-pitch excitement, the award was won by Sean Hughes, for his highly acclaimed show, *A One Night Stand With Sean Hughes*. It was a popular choice, partly because of Hughes' standing with his peers, but mostly because the judges seemed to have taken note of current trends in comedy.

For the first five years revue-style shows were popular; then, for four years, a rash of stand-up comedians rose to prominence. Now we see a distinct restlessness among the stand-ups to "do something different". Although stand-up will continue to be the backbone of their work, when it comes to Festival time they are taking new and refreshing risks.

The short list, in fact, had only one stand-up on it — the powerful American political comedian Jim-

my Tingle. Diffie Keane was nominated for her one-woman music-and-comedy revue and Pete McCarthy for his midday *Hangerover Show* (which yesterday won the Edinburgh Critics' Award for Comedy) that combines storytelling with bits of history, medicine and free bloody Marys.

This was the second year of branching out for the 24-year-old Hughes — last year he amused audiences in a brilliant, anarchic two-handed play with Stephen Frost. Since leaving his native Dublin four years ago, Hughes has built up a considerable reputation as a stand-up comedian in London. He wrote his latest show — aptly described as "a bold stream of consciousness, reminiscence and neurosis" — to explore his life, his childhood and, particularly, his relationship with his father. Rather than using dispiriting gags, he gently probes, with lines like: "If your dreams

become reality, how are you supposed to sleep at night?"

The show, he says, is intensely personal, and came about not because he was bored with stand-up, but because he felt he could not say enough in the short period of time allocated to stand-up comedy. "I started off this show in a small theatre a few months ago, but was so nervous about doing it that I had a long stand-up set in my mind to fall back on if I needed it. However, I got a lot of encouragement and things started to gel."

Of winning the award he says: "I think it just means I have a bit more space to do what I want to do — but hopefully still enough space to fall on my arse without the pressure of 'He's the best'."

● A One Night Stand runs until Saturday at the Gilded Balloon, 223 Cowgate, Edinburgh. 031-226 3151, at 8pm.



Sean Hughes, winner of the 1990 Perrier Award for Comedy

CHOICE: THEATRE AND CABARET

NEW IN LONDON

AFTER THEIR LOVING: Victoria Casting in new Stephen James play about the masks lovers wear. Man in the Moon, 382 King's Road, SW3 (01-351 2876). Underground: Sloane Square. Previews from tonight, 8.30pm. Opens Thurs, 7pm. Then Tues, 8.30pm. Until September 22.

THE EVIL DOERS: Tom Mannon with Katy Murphy as a heavy metal fan in comedy by Chris Hannan. Bush, Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (01-743 3388). Underground: Shepherd's Bush. Previews from tomorrow, 8pm. Opens Fri, 7pm. Then Tues-Sun, 8pm. Until September 30.

GREEK TRAGEDY: Mike Leigh's dark comedy exploring the awfulness of being Greek in Australia. Theatre Royal, Garry Rafferty Square, E15 (081-534 0310). Underground: Stratford. Previews from Fri, 8pm. Opens September 3, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until September 28.

TSUNAGI-UMA: Lasenkan Theatre with a puppet play adapted for actors. Latchmere, 503 Battersea Park Road, SW11 (071-228 2820). British Rail: Clapham Junction. Tomorrow-Sat, 8pm.

OUTSIDE LONDON

CHICHESTER: Scenes from a Marriage. Penny Downie, Alan Howard in Ingmar Bergman's dissection of marital life. Minerva, Oaklands Park (0243 781312). Preview Wed, 7.45pm. Opens Thurs, 7.45pm. Then in repertory.

GLASGOW: Mrs Warren's Profession. Ann Mitchell plays the mother with a profession. Citizens' Theatre, Gorbals (041-429 0222). Preview Thurs, 7.30pm. Opens Fri, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until September 29.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: Love's Labour's Lost. Terry Haines' last production in the main house as RSC boss, with a dazzling cast led by Ralph Fiennes, Simon Russell Beale. Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0789 295623). Previews from Thurs, 7.30pm. Opens September 5, 7pm. Then in rep.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: Two Shakespearean Actors. Background to the New York audience not of 1849. Swan (0789 295623). Previews from Wed, 7.30pm. Opens September 4, 7pm. Then in repertory.

JEREMY KINGSTON

CABARET

MAD LIB: Regular comedy improvisation from the Mad Lib team, whose deceptively casual approach to the whole thing allows you to participate if you want to. Elektra Theatre Club, The Oxford Arms, 288 Camden High Street, London NW1 (071-482 4857). Tonight, 9pm. £3.

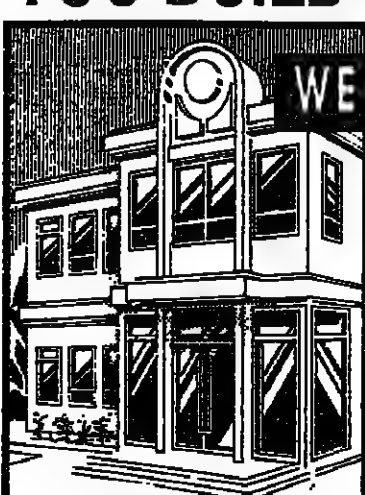
COMEDY PIT: Solid stand-up bill with the contrasting styles of Jeff Green, Paul Ramone and Ian McDougal. The George IV, 144 Brixton Hill, London SW9 2JL, doors 8.30pm, show 9pm, £3.50.

CHUCKLE CLUB: An early returnee from Edinburgh is Bob Boyton; on a bill with Ditz Cannelton, Jack and Harry and resident comedienne, Eugene Cheese. The Stag, 15 Bressenden Place, SW1 (071-476 1672). Fri, doors 7.45pm, show 8.30pm, £4.

COMEDY IN TATTERS: London's only off-shore cabaret venue, featuring Cathy Dunning, Anthony King, Chris Luby and Archie Aris as comedians. Tattershall Castle Puddle Steamer, Victoria Embankment, WC2 (071-733 6322). Sun, doors 8pm, show 8.30pm, £3.50.

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REVIEWS

How to whirl hoops into life

DANCE

American Indian
Dance Theatre
King's, Edinburgh

THE most amazing item in the programme of the American Indian Dance Theatre is Eddie Swimmer's hoop dance. At first it looks easy as he circles around, making one hoop, then three, then five, twirl about his limbs, linked together, and somehow staying in place, although he seems repeatedly to duck his head into and through them.

But he goes on adding more and more hoops — there must be at least two dozen of them — and as they weave they become petals, a shell, moving with him as he dances. The physical dexterity involved is almost incredible, but there is more to it as the linked hoops become a metaphor for the changes and connections of everyday life. In the end the dancer turns them into two globes, leading to a celebratory round dance by the whole company.

Impressive as this is, there are greater wonders to follow. Chief among these is the Apache Crown Dance, performed by three men who hop from side to side with strange wooden structures on their heads. This evocation of medicine men invoking the mountain spirits is glimpsed obscurely through mists, and its mystery is piquantly heightened by a little clown who moves teasingly among the others

like a kind of animal or bird. Certain trends emerge: more and more hoops — there must be at least two dozen of them — and as they weave they become petals, a shell, moving with him as he dances. The physical dexterity involved is almost incredible, but there is more to it as the linked hoops become a metaphor for the changes and connections of everyday life. In the end the dancer turns them into two globes, leading to a celebratory round dance by the whole company.

To see the head-dresses would alone almost be worth the cost of a ticket. Such a variety of shapes and colours is displayed, while the differences continue through the patterns painted by some of the dancers on their faces and the clothes they wear, decorated with shawls, hangings, beads, feathers and fur leggings.

There are eight items in each half of the programme, which is probably a representative selection, although with more than 250 tribal groups still in existence the amount of source material must be daunting. We have never seen anything like it before, largely because the white invaders feared all Indian dancing as "war dances" and tried to stamp them out.

If the programme had identified the tribal sources of all the dances, instead of only some, it would have been useful, though we are told that the 19 performers, including drummers and singers, come from 14 different tribes. This show is meant as entertainment, and succeeds admirably, but it is history too. It is a feast for the eye, and it is a programme drawn from particular individual traditions? That would really be a reversal of past trends.

JOHN PERCIVAL



American Indian head-dresses: impressive variety on stage

OPERA

Katya Kabanova
Albert Hall

WHEN Covent Garden is closed for rebuilding, the Royal Opera's plans are said to include staging *The Ring* at the Albert Hall. Ardent Wagnerians can scarcely conceal their impatience to see how the Rhine will be charted through that solid edifice. Meanwhile, with the arrival of the Glyndebourne production of *Katya Kabanova* at the Proms on Friday, an Albert Hall audience had to visualise another mighty river in a starring operatic role.

In one superficial sense there was an inevitable diminishing of impact. The opera's terrible climax is the moment when its heroine, driven insane by guilt and rejection, throws herself to her death in the Volga. Here, Nancy Gustafson had to be content with jumping a few inches off a podium, and squatting motionless. Yet by then the surging fury of Janáček's music should have been enough to fill every mind with painful visual images, and make every heart heavy with anguish.

Katya Kabanova is the saddest of Janáček's operas — perhaps the saddest of all operas — because Katya's spirit is crushed not once or twice, but three times. Her character, and especially her sexuality, aspires to a bird-like freedom; she sings as much, and Janáček often gives her a wonder-

fully gentle, lilting line of music that contrasts with all around.

But first she is constrained into marriage by the rigid expectations of her village; then she finds her husband too mother-dominated to reciprocate her love; and finally, when she achieves brief sexual and spiritual content elsewhere, her own moral scruples tear her apart. The classic conflict, between expression and repression, sexuality and social discipline, the deed and its con-

sequence, is all fought within Katya — though of course the frightening old bag of a mother-in-law externalises one side in the battle pretty well.

Much of this story Janáček took straight from Ostrovsky's play. But his music makes explicit a deep subtext that seems to open up a window straight into the torments of the heroine's soul. There is the marvellous prelude, pregnant with tension; those unnaturally high timpani notes

signifying self-control stretched to snapping point. Later comes the memorable vocal depiction of the mother-in-law: articulation like a machine-gun, words like bullets.

And there are the wild trumpet dissonances and crazy horn lines, coinciding with Katya's increasingly overwrought mental state, and culminating in an ending where super-charged rhythms jostle chaotically for supremacy.

This performance of Nikolaus Lehnhoff's production derived much of its force from the fine playing of the London Philharmonic under Andrew Davis's direction. Some of the string pickups in the first scene were not unanimous, but after that the orchestra rendered even Janáček's more bizarre instrumental ideas with absolute confidence. Most of all, the score emerged as containing astonishing delicacies as well as thunder, more clearly heard when not smothered within a pit.

In the little role, Nancy Gustafson conveyed neurosis with many a dive to the floor and much tossing of a majestic mane of hair; wisely, she kept her voice true to pitch and superbly controlled. Felicity Palmer's Kabanika (the mother-in-law) was a splendidly chilling sight and sound; her hint of sado-masochistic sadism and tickle with Donald Adams's Dikoy was aptly grotesque. Ryland Davies and Kim Begley sang the tonioles with distinction, and in the secondary love affair John Graham-Hall and Louise Winter both showed much character.

Nancy Gustafson as Katya: superbly controlled pitch

RICHARD MORRISON

PROMS

NYCO/Davis
Albert Hall/Radio 3

THE National Youth Chamber Orchestra was founded two years ago as a consequence of changed attitudes towards the performance of music of the Classical period since the formation of its big brother, the National Youth Orchestra. No longer can the NYCO credibly tackle Mozart, Haydn, and most of Beethoven with its hundred or so players as it used to.

Like the NYO, the NYCO meets only in the summer, and in a way the results it achieves are even more miraculous, not because standards are any more professional or the musicianship any more innocently and gloriously committed, but because much of the music it performs represents a sterner challenge. In Mozart there is no room for a false gesture.

For that composer's C minor Piano Concerto, K491, the orchestra, conducted with unpedagogical sensitivity by Sir Colin Davis, played as if with awe of that trism, though never did

caution inhibit the intensity of this dark, rich work. Only a fractionally sharp flautist — no doubt a victim of the stifling hot hall — threatened to disturb the assurance of the performance. The soloist, Imogen Cooper, understood perfectly the flavour of the work, just as one expected she would. Her control of phrase and colour was exquisite, the scale of her projection enabling her to combine a singing clarity with a chamber-like intimacy.

Sir Colin's direction earlier helped invest Tippett's *Divertimento* on Sellinger's Round with a

compelling rhythmic buoyancy. The relentless counterpoints of this five-movement suite, which originated as a single variation in a composite set written for Coronation Year, can get the better of unimaginative performers. The NYCO does not consist of those. It was then strange and disappointing that Mendelssohn's "Italian" Symphony at the end of the concert was found wanting for the essential freshness with which possibly only unaged youth can now provide it.

STEPHEN PETTIT

WORD-WATCHING
Answers from page 18

RANDALORE (b) An 18th-century children's toy resembling a yo-yo which, through the action of a coiled spring, returned to the hand when thrown down. Origin obscure: "Our Iron Duke in Dublin playing with a randalore, now an obsolete toy."

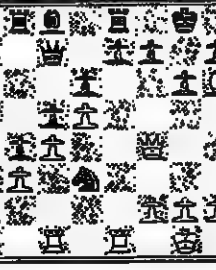
GLADIATION (a) A duel or combat, from the Latin *gladius* a sword; Lowry: "These luminous gladiations gave at first the impression of taking place in sinister silence."

DEJADA (b) Unusual appetites or longings of pregnant women, from the Sanskrit word; unusual food cravings, especially if they occur in the middle of the night, were taken as an early sign of pregnancy.

QUIFFING (b) The old Spanish practice of British postal runners of replying mail that is ready for delivery. If you still have a sackful of letters when the time comes to knock off, simply put them in the nearest pillar box to go through the same process tomorrow, when you can start all over again.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



This position is from the game Karlsen (White) — Ljubojević (Black), Wismunde 1932. Can you spot White's immediate win? Solution in tomorrow's Times. Solution to the competition position (August 18): 1... Bxb2 (2 Rxb2 Qx1+ forcing mate). The winners are: Mr T.F. Graham, Southampton; Mr D. Shohet, Edgware; L. Wright, St. Ann's.

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COLLEGE 8.01 8.30 8.45 9.00 9.15 9.30 9.45 10.00 10.15 10.30 10.45 11.00 11.15 11.30 11.45 12.00 12.15 12.30 12.45 1.00 1.15 1.30 1.45 2.00 2.15 2.30 2.45 3.00 3.15 3.30 3.45 4.00 4.15 4.30 4.45 5.00 5.15 5.30 5.45 6.00 6.15 6.30 6.45 7.00 7.15 7.30 7.45 8.00 8.15 8.30 8.45 9.00 9.15 9.30 9.45 10.00 10.15 10.30 10.45 11.00 11.15 11.30 11.45 12.00 12.15 12.30 12.45 1.00 1.15 1.30 1.45 2.00 2.15 2.30 2.45 3.00 3.15 3.30 3.45 4.00 4.15 4.30 4.45 5.00 5.15 5.30 5.45 6.00 6.15 6.30 6.45 7.00 7.15 7.30 7.45 8.00 8.15 8.30 8.45 9.00 9.15 9.30 9.45 10.00 10.15 10.30 10.45 11.00 11.15 11.30 11.45 12.00 12.15 12.30 12.45 1.00 1.15 1.30 1.45 2.00 2.15 2.30 2.45 3.00 3.15 3.30 3.45 4.00 4.15 4.30 4.45 5.00 5.15 5.30 5.45 6.00 6.15 6.30 6.45 7.00 7.15 7.30 7.45 8.00 8.15 8.30 8.45 9.00 9.15 9.30 9.45 10.00 10.15 10.30 10.45 11.00 11.15 11.30 11.45 12.00 12.15 12.30 12.45 1.00 1.15 1.30 1.45 2.00 2.15 2.30 2.45 3.00 3.15 3.30 3.45 4.00 4.15 4.30 4.45 5.00 5.15 5.30 5.45 6.00 6.15 6.30 6.45 7.00 7.15 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● TELEVISION CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVIS/1

10.35 XVth European Athletics Championships
Championnats d'Europe, Jun 29

10.35 XVIII European Athletics Championships. Jim Rosenthal introduces the day's action from the European athletics championship in Split, Yugoslavia. Among the athletes competing on the first day of the meeting are some of Britain's top sports medal contenders: Lord Christy, Steve Buckley, Kenji Abezumi and Tom McKean. With commentary by Alan Parry. Peter Matthews and Steve Overt.

11 05 Film: The Survivors (1983); starring Jerry Mathau, Robin Williams and Wendy Farrow. Patchy black comedy with effective moments about a pair of New Yorkers who meet in a bar where they lost an attempted robbery and are hailed as heroes by the media. Directed by Michael Ritchie.

1.00am Sportsweek Extra. Tony Francis introduces golfing action from the West German Open in Dusseldorf and the weekend football.

2.00 Film: The Thing (1982). John Carpenter's remake in a midtier version for television audiences of the 1951 science-fiction chiller about a prehistoric creature whose deep sleep is disturbed by a Norwegian scientific expedition to the Antarctic. The Americans come to the rescue led by Kurt Russell and A. Wilford Brimley.


4.00 The 3's Company. Janey's Secret. Comedy with three flatmates: one male and two female.

4.30 Grand Ole Opry. Late-night country music.

5.00 ITN News with Phil Roman. Ends 6.00

its director Mike Wedgill may be that's why there's no sign of him

picture appeared in the Sixties, Wadleigh made *Woodstock*, a celebration of an alternative community based on love, drugs and rock. It that was a statement of its decade, then *Wolfen* can be read as a parable for the environmentally sensitive Eighties. It imagines that killer wolves, despised by man or then natural forest natural, are slaking the city of New York by night and picking off its inhabitants. One of their victims is, symbolically, a real-estate developer. Albin Finney is the cop called in to investigate and Gregory Hines makes his film debut as the corner. They frequently have to bow to the dazzling special effects, which enable us to see the world from a wolf's eye view



range: Albert Finney and friend (10.30pm)

12.40am Perestroika Down Below At the end of the Librarian movie, in June 1989, a group of historians travelled to the Soviet Union to obtain videotaped interviews with retired workers. Instead, they were given access to the coal miners themselves and recorded a fascinating documentary on the miners' attitudes to perestroika. Ends 1.40

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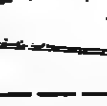
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An afternoon with Schwarzenegger puts Elliott back in the motion picture

Totally recalled to top action

From DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
SPLIT

A FORTNIGHT ago, Peter Elliott was at the cinema watching Arnold Schwarzenegger in *Total Recall*. "All blood and guts" is how Elliott remembers it - which is how we think of Elliott. Only that day Elliott was near to tears.

Elliott, the comic-strip character, after years tucked away on the inside pages, had finally made the cover at the Commonwealth Games in February: the down-to-earth Yorkshire joiner with spiky ginger hair, ear-ring and gritted teeth, was a gold medal-winner after seven years of trying. The upmarket Yorkshire schoolboy-turned-politician, Sebastian Coe, had come back with nothing but sympathy votes.

"It would be nice to think it's the first of four gold medals," Elliott said after his triumph in Auckland. At the Sheffield Odeon, he was less ambitious. "All I wanted to do was to be able to get out of bed in the morning and for nothing to hurt," Elliott said.

"I'd had a chest infection which put me in bed for two days and when I got up I damaged my knee," Elliott said. "On the Saturday morning I did a seven-mile run and my knee was killing me. I thought I might as well pack it in for the season. I went to the pictures in the afternoon and did another run in the evening. My knee didn't hurt at all. It was unbelievable."

On the Monday, Elliott trained hard; on the Wednesday, harder; on Friday, he was running 3min 55.1sec to win the Emsley Carr Mile at Gateshead. Four days later,



this man whose catalogue of problems had begun nine weeks earlier with a calf strain, ran one of the fastest 1,500 metres in the world this year, 3min 34.12sec in Rovereto, Italy.

"Suddenly, I'm up there again," he said. And with perfect timing for the European championships. Those missed opportunities at the big grand prix meetings do not seem to matter. "It's not what happens in Zurich, Oslo and at Crystal Palace that counts. If I win the Europeans, who's going to remember that I was second in the Dream Mile?"

While that may sound like a change of tune, it is not. Elliott has always put championships above everything. Most things, anyway. Three years ago, his employers invited him to train full-time for the Olympics and yet still he paid.

"How could I face my mates at work if I didn't win the gold medal?" he said then. He finished second. Nobody knows how much difference being a full-time athlete might have made.

He had also been second the year before, at the 1987 world championships. Always the joiner's mate, never the joiner. But the 1990s came like a new life: after winning in Auckland, he set a mile world record indoors. In May, he downed tools and changed jobs.

Instead of conducting his business from the shop floor, he was doing it from two plush rooms at the London Hilton on Park Lane, calling a conference to outline his plans for the rest of the year.



All blood and guts: no better description for Elliott when he is at his best

They included, potentially, a middle-distance double in Split - and why not? After all those years in his early twenties, hammering away at 800 metres - fourth in the 1983 world championships and fourth in the 1984 Olympics - he had just run a lifetime best: 1min 42.97sec, and the season had not properly started.

But, first, to Rotherham. Dear Rotherham. "I don't think I'll ever move out of Rotherham," Elliott said in Rovereto. Breathtaking Italian mountains all around, but he would rather be back near the steelworks. "It's home, isn't it, and I've got lots of happy memories."

He had promised to run the mile to help open Rotherham's new track on June 15, knowing that, had he planned a big-meeting appearance that weekend, he might have become an outdoor world record holder. "I honestly felt that if I had run a 1,500 then, I would have broken the world record," he said. Elliott is not one for hollow statements, either.

He was widely written-up as being in the form to beat Said Aouita's 3min 29.46sec, or Steve Cram's mile record of 3min 46.32sec. Yet no sooner had he started his new job than he was off sick.

As the European champion-

ships grew closer, Elliott began to lose hope. "I was getting more and more down. I would be out walking my dogs and my chin would be on the floor."

After Gateshead, his chin was up again. "It's nice to be back working," he said. There will be no attempt at 800 metres in Split: too much training has been lost and he does not want to jeopardise his prospects for the blue riband event.

Cram will be there, but the age of Ovett and Coe has passed. "I will be in the shadow of Coe, Ovett and Cram whatever I do, because they were the ones who started it all off," Elliott said.

SPORT ON TV

Warren goes to war over pirates

By RICHARD EVANS

FRANK Warren, the boxing promoter, is proposing a sport rights association to monitor broadcast coverage of events and prevent the screening of unpaid-for and pirated material.

Warren's plan, unveiled at the Edinburgh television festival at the weekend, is to combat the practice of some of Britain's television companies in lifting one another's supposedly exclusive sports coverage and using it in their own news bulletins.

TV-am started the trend in May when it showed excerpts from the FA Cup, the rights of which were owned by the BBC and British Satellite Broadcasting. TV-am's actions are alleged to be in breach of the Copyright Act, which permits a television station to take clips from other television outlets.

In recent weeks, BSB has been lifting coverage of other channels' sports events to such an extent that Stuart Purvis, editor of ITN, said the BSB sports channel logo "should be replaced by the Jolly Roger".

The wave of pirating and uncertainty over news access to sports events stems from the breakdown of the "gentlemen's agreement" which existed between the BBC and ITV for more than 30 years.

Warren said he had done deals with regional television companies which had subsequently allowed material to be screened in another region without payment. "The owners of the rights should get themselves together and form an association similar to the Performing Rights Association," he said.

YACHTING

Frenchmen have the better of two tight finishes

From ROGER LEAN-VERCOE, MEDEMBLICK, THE NETHERLANDS

THE Soling and Tornado world championships came to a thrilling climax on Saturday with two exceptionally close final races in which Marc Bouet, of France, took the Soling title, whilst the Tornado championship went to another Frenchman, Christophe Clemenot.

The Soling race started slowly with two general recalls in drifting conditions, after which 15 competitors, including the British team of Dave Tabb, were sent home after a premature start.

The chastened fleet started at the third attempt and was led at the first mark by a surprised American, Jerry Casle, whose previous record was generally in the high 50s. Then the real battle started. Casle's compatriot, Kevin Mahaney, lying second in the overall ranking, some 17.5pts behind Marc Bouet, rounded the windward mark fifth, whilst Bouet, after a middling start and an adverse windshift on the first leg, rounded in 23rd place.

Bouet had to close to within 14 places or so of Mahaney and he played an ace by sailing wide at the gybe mark to gain nine positions and regain the overall lead. Then the lead alternated.

After Abbott and Mahaney, which cost the owners a third of the price of many of her rivals, gained a decisive class victory and won the prestigious Schröder Trophy as overall winner on corrected time.

The Enterprise Offshore Trophy for the highest placed boat entered and crewed by a financial institution went to Young Eagle (Shelley Barr SC), skippered by David Bergin.

Final results: Soling Class 1, B. Abbott, M. Abbott and C. Mahaney (USA); 2, J. Casle, J. Casle and J. Casle (USA); 3, J. Casle, J. Casle and J. Casle (USA); 4, J. Casle, J. Casle and J. Casle (USA); 5, J. Casle, J. Casle and J. Casle (USA); 6, J. Casle, J. Casle and J. Casle (USA); 7, J. Casle, J. Casle and J. Casle (USA); 8, J. Casle, J. Casle and J. Casle (USA); 9, J. Casle, J. Casle and J. Casle (USA); 10, J. Casle, J. Casle and J. Casle (USA); 11, J. Casle, J. Casle and J. Casle (USA); 12, J. Casle, J. Casle and J. Casle (USA); 13, J. Casle, J. Casle and J. Casle (USA); 14, J. Casle, J. Casle and J. Casle (USA); 15, J. Casle, J. Casle and J. Casle (USA); 16, J. Casle, J. Casle and J. Casle (USA); 17, J. Casle, J. Casle and J. Casle (USA); 18, J. Casle, J. Casle and J. Casle (USA); 19, J. Casle, J. Casle and J. Casle (USA); 20, J. Casle, J. Casle and J. Casle (USA); 21, J. Casle, J. Casle and J. Casle (USA); 22, J. Casle, J. Casle and J. Casle (USA); 23, J. Casle, J. Casle and J. 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"We decide the courses we need". Graham Locke, headmaster for ten years of Audenshaw High, Manchester, which has chosen to opt out of local authority control

Opt-out balance sheet of success

One of the first things a visitor notices at Audenshaw High School is the newly painted railings. A few weeks ago, they were rusty, not having been painted for eight years. Inside, there has been redecoration, new furniture in the staffroom, a new computer system for administration, and the floor of the hall/gymnasium has been polished and repaired for the first time since the school was built in 1932. A new entrance, classrooms and art block are planned for the school that has less than two years ago faced closure.

They are by no means the most important changes in the past year, but they are visible signs of the school's new-found freedom as one of the first to use the government's education reforms to opt out of local authority control. Instead of waiting for Tameside Council to paint the railings, Graham Locke, the headmaster, paid a group of fifth formers £2 an hour to do the job.

Mr Locke, who has been head at Audenshaw, Greater Manchester, for ten years, is like a boy with a new toy. "It is the quality of life, not just a question of money," he says. "You are actually responsible for the way the school is run."

There are, however, financial advantages in having control of all the school budget without the

local authority keeping parts of it for central administration, inspectors and advisers, schools meals, premature retirement and dismissal costs.

As a grant-maintained school taking its budget directly from the education department every month, Audenshaw receives almost £1,300,000 a year. The money consists of the annual maintenance grant of £1,236,000 to cover direct costs and the amount of money the local authority would have received for central services, plus £33,000 as a special purposes grant to cover VAT, premises and training. This year, the figure also included a once-only setting-up grant of £25,875, and £80,500 that the school pays in rent to Tameside Council, which in the battle against the opt-out proposals took over the school's freehold.

For 1990-91, the school's direct costs have been set at £1,065,584, almost the same as the £1,060,411 allocated by Tameside Council to West Hill High, a school about the same size as Audenshaw. Tameside is holding back £450,000, about 30 per cent of the full amount for which the school qualifies, to pay for central services, capital expenditure and home-to-school transport.

Audenshaw will also receive £242,029 to cover its central services, £53,142 to provide school meals, and £592,000 for

David Tytler visits a school finding new freedom after leaving local council control

capital expenditure. Even when the local management of schools (LMS), which passes the day-to-day running to heads and governors, is fully implemented in 1994, about 10 per cent will stay with the local authority.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Headteachers, of which Mr Locke is a leading member, believes that more heads will follow the grant-maintained route when they see that schools will have complete control over all their budget.

This term there will be 44 grant-maintained schools, four more have just been approved, and 15 are waiting for approval. Mr Locke is by no means convinced there will be a rush to follow him.

He says: "Some will, but there is a difficulty for heads who are advised not to get involved in the arguments over whether a school should or should not opt out. How do you persuade a school to seek grant-maintained status if the head takes the position where he says: 'I am the servant of my employer and my employer is the local authority. Who am I to stand

up and say I do not want the local authority?' I do not know how I would feel if I were not grant-maintained now. But there is no doubt that when people visit grant-maintained schools, they speak very positively about them."

Each grant-maintained school has developed its own way of running things. Some have many governors' meetings concerned with the detail of day-to-day management. At Audenshaw, Mr Locke has been given great freedom. The governors allow him, for example, to appoint his own staff, although he usually consults the chairman of the personnel sub-committee, particularly when it comes to fixing individual salaries.

There are also building and finance sub-committees, but these meet only as the need arises. The full 17-strong governing body, including Mr Locke, meets six times a year, instead of the three times when the school was under local authority control.

During the parents' campaign to take Audenshaw High out of the control of Tameside when the school was threatened with closure under a school re-organisation scheme, Mr Locke was always careful to maintain a neutral public position. In the event, 91 per cent of the 86 per

cent of parents who voted were in favour of opting out. Mr Locke says: "Twelve months ago, I could not go to parents and say: 'It will be like this', because I did not know."

Mr Locke points to his training allowance of £18,000 as an example of financial benefit. In the past, staff training courses were run by the local authority, which kept most of the grant, allowing the school perhaps only £3,000 to spend as it wanted. "Now," he says, "we can decide the courses we need, and apply to get on to them straight away."

The money allocated for training must be spent for that purpose only, but other parts of the budget may be transferred as the heads and governors see fit. This has enabled Mr Locke to give departmental heads within the school more resources than they had before.

Opting-out has certainly done no harm to recruiting. 180 new boys are due to start this summer, instead of the scheduled 150, which will raise the school roll from last year's 720 to 760.

Mr Locke, Manchester Grammar and Cambridge, has no regrets. "Even with LMS," he says, "you have the local authority as a back stop. In a grant-maintained school, you really know that you have a group of governors whose commitment is to the school."

NOTICEBOARD

Enterprising projects net £22m for training

EIGHTEEN higher education institutions are to benefit from a big expansion of an employment department scheme to prepare students for jobs in industry and commerce. The new projects will join 26 others already under way in the first two rounds of the Enterprise in Higher Education initiative, bringing spending on the scheme to £22 million by the end of the financial year.

The scheme aroused controversy when it was launched two years ago because it sought to instil enterprise values throughout the curriculum, but there has been no shortage of bids for the grants, which can be worth £1 million over five years. The 12 projects in the latest batch, which include two programmes involving more than one institution, were chosen from a field of 60. Some of the unlucky candidates may be included in a fourth round next year.

Robert Jackson, the employment minister, said: "The initiative is clearly acting as a vigorous catalyst for change within the world of higher education. It has opened up a new partnership between higher education and employers of all sizes who are now working together to produce the kind of graduates who are already in touch with the working world and can rise to meet the challenges of the 1990s."

Each bid has to include a guaranteed contribution in cash or kind by employers. Mr Jackson said that employers' participation had exceeded the department's expectations.

Governing body

PROPOSALS for the creation of a more professional organisation to serve the 300,000 school and college governors in England and Wales are the subject of a postal ballot under way among members of the National Association of Governors and Managers (NAGM).

Only about 1,500 governors are members of the association, while another 5,000 have group membership. The NAGM executive hopes to expand membership beyond the 20 areas where it is concentrated at present by employing a small staff to

establish a network of branches, produce a newsletter and expand training activities. The education department has offered a temporary grant to enable the association to develop. The executive's aim is to achieve financial independence through a higher level of membership.

In a child's eye

BULLYING in schools, children who read before they speak, pre-school care and gifted children are among the subjects on the agenda of the fourth European conference on developmental psychology, which begins today at Stirling University. More than 500 delegates from Britain and abroad are expected at the conference, which ends on Friday. Most of the papers deal with child development. Adult problems, such as religious doubts in the elderly, will also be discussed.

Newton centre

CAMBRIDGE University's general board has approved plans for an international research centre in mathematics, to be known as the Isaac Newton Institute. Its director will be Sir Michael Atiyah, who is moving from Oxford to become Master of Trinity College.

The institute will concentrate on the applications of mathematics to other subjects as well as conducting basic research. A call for project proposals has been issued to mathematicians in universities all over the world with the intention of selecting the first research programmes in October for a start in 1992.

Electric theatre

THIRTY teenagers who have spent the last month attending the Shrewsbury Theatre summer school in Cardiff will perform their own play at the theatre this week. *Drama and Echoes*, which they researched, wrote and designed, will run for four nights starting on Wednesday.

The summer school, which received sponsorship of £3,000 from South Wales Electricity, was directed by Roger Hill, chairman of the national association of youth theatre.

JOHN O'LEARY

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Snapping up the candidates

There are more university places, but student competition is strong, John O'Leary reports

UNIVERSITIES appear to be exceeding even the most optimistic forecasts of the number of places they began to offer this summer. They began to increase student numbers last year, partly because higher tuition fees meant extra income per student, and they have continued to do so this year.

Despite the beginnings of a decline in the number of 18-year-olds, who make up the bulk of the student population, there is no shortage of good candidates. This year there have been 219,000 applications for places, 24,000 more than last year.

A rise in the number of mature students applying via access courses or the diploma programmes of the Business and Technician Education Council has also increased competition for places.

Universities are committed to taking more mature students and this was the main reason for a rise of more than 5,000 in the number of unconditional offers made before A-level results were published.

The assumption was that this would increase the squeeze on places for school leavers, but instead the universities have opted for greater expansion.

By the end of last week 98,500 offers had been made and accepted, 15,000 more than last year at this time and of students to be eventually taken in 1991.

Universities' Central Council on Admissions (Ucas), which has been taken by surprise by the scale of the increase, now estimates that there may be as many as 118,000 places filled by the end of next month.

Such a rise would be the equivalent of three entire universities of average size.

Jeff Enderby, head of information services at Ucas, says: "Universities tend to overage their offers knowing there will be a certain number of withdrawals and a proportion who do not make their grades, but it looks as if there

will be significantly more places in the end. Admissions tutors have been taking their decisions at a faster rate so it is difficult to tell what the final total will be.

The speedier process may mean fewer places in clearing, however. Competition for good students among universities and polytechnics is such that many admissions tutors are wary about the depth of talent available and will want to fill courses as quickly as possible.

Last year nearly half of the 8,000 hopefuls who entered the clearing process came out with places.

This year's clearing papers have already gone out to those who found themselves without even a conditional offer of a place before A-levels and to those who have been rejected subsequently. It will be impossible to assess numbers in clearing until the initial round of offers closes at the end of next week.

There are likely to be few

surprises in the range of courses available by that time. Already there are few vacancies in the most competitive areas. Medicine, law and the most popular humanities always command high grades and are oversubscribed with well qualified applicants. But places in engineering, technology, mathematics and some sciences are often difficult to fill with enough acceptable students. There are bound to be places in all these subjects through clearing.

Ucas advises students who are having trouble winning a place to be flexible in their choice of university and subject. There is no obligation to pursue the same subjects in clearing as a candidate had on his or her original application form. Ucas also urges those rejected from their original choice of universities to seek the help of local careers offices and their school or college. In particular, it is essential to be at home during the applications process, which can move quickly once a university shows interest in a candidate.

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Degrees awarded by the University of Glasgow

THE TIMES DEGREE COURSE VACANCY SERVICE

Continued from previous page

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In a hot summer, high-flyers learn the Icarus effect

While corporate players tighten their belts, Martin Barrow reflects on some who did not do it in time

RARELY can so many notable corporate scapels have been claimed in such a short period of time. The first months of the new decade have seen executive idols of the Eighties tumble from grace at an astonishing rate. The economic slump is showing no respect for past achievements, reputations or egos.

They do not come much bigger than British & Commonwealth and John Guna, its deal-making chief executive, who spent £2 billion in the two years after his 1985 appointment in assembling Britain's largest financial services conglomerate. Its collapse was equally dramatic.

Administrators came in June, just two years after Guna completed the £418 million acquisition of Atlantic, the computer leasing company, a deal which at the time earned praise for County NatWest WoodMac for "securing at a good price a company with quality earnings and the potential for continued strong profits growth".

Atlantic proved to be the straw that broke the camel's back, going into administration in April and forcing B & C to write off its total £550 million investment. During the turmoil a magnanimous Guna even took a pay cut — from £745,000 a year to £300,000 — but his days were numbered. Within eight weeks he was forced to step aside as bankers squabbled over the carcass.

John Ashcroft's days were probably numbered after he was voted Young Businessman of the Year by *The Guardian* in 1987 — earlier winners had included Sir Clive Sinclair, Sir Hugh Fraser and George Davies. In the event he survived as chairman of Coloroll until last March, his company until June, before buckling under the weight of debts in excess of £300 million.

"At university my aim was to run a successful plc by the time I was 35, having made a million," he once told a *Sunday Telegraph* journalist. He missed his target by one year and the company went bust before he was 42.

Ferranti survived the £215 million ISC fraud — only just — but Sir Derek Alun-Jones, the chairman, did not. After watching potential bidders for the stricken company fall over themselves as they ran in the opposite direction, he was replaced by Eugene Anderson, a Texan best known for hauling Johnson Matthey off the rack.

Sir Derek rode quietly into the sunset, to be remembered forever as the man who masterminded the



When the music stops for executive idols of the Eighties: Sophie Mirman, James Gulliver, Ephraim Margulies, John Ashcroft, John Guna, Sir Derek Alun-Jones, and Sir Terence Conran

£420 million acquisition of ISC, a company whose worth was almost entirely fraudulent. That seems unfair. After all, he had just saved Ferranti from insolvency and secured a surprisingly high price for its flagship operations from Lord Weinstock, who is not known for being free with his money.

In fact, the wheel had spun full circle. Sir Derek had been recruited as chief executive in 1975 by the Labour government to save the company from collapse in the hands of the Ferranti family.

The City also waved goodbye to Ephraim Margulies, who was known to friends and foe alike as Marg. Real estate ventures in Manhattan proved to be the downfall of the chairman of Berisford International, which owns British Sugar. He departed under pressure from institutional shareholders alarmed at the prospect of further write-offs like last year's £100 million for declining New York property values.

The son of poor Jewish immigrants from Poland, he began trading groceries when at school in London's East End and graduated from there to commodities, mainly cocoa. During the Sixties he built up his own company, J H Rayner, which was reversed into the quoted S & W Berisford in

1969 to form one of the liveliest stocks of the Seventies. In the mid-Eighties Berisford survived no less than four takeover bids, courtesy of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and a stock market slump, which prompted Associated British Foods to pull out after securing more than 50 per cent acceptance. Margulies supported

'The wheel had spun full circle. Sir Derek had been recruited to save Ferranti'

Guinness in the takeover battle for Distillers, spending £15 million on Guinness shares in return for "some kind of help and comfort", according to Olivier Roux, the prosecution's star witness in the Guinness fraud trial.

For sheer speed few corporate calamities can match Parkfield, which collapsed in July with liabilities of £275 million. Parkfield shares reached 518p in January, valuing the mini-conglomerate at £263 million, but went into a free-fall in March as rumours circu-

lated in the City of serious problems within the video distribution division. These rumours proved to have more than just an element of truth.

Roger Felber, the chairman, whose 1.5 million shares were once worth £8 million, issued a profit warning in June but failed to reveal the depth of Parkfield's problems. Among the unsecured creditors are believed to be Ronnie and Reggie Kray. Parkfield financed a film based on their lives which was released in Britain this year.

With the government using high interest rates to pound the economy back under control, it was bound to be a torrid year for retailers and High Street UK plc has not failed to disappoint.

The scene was set in January when James Gulliver, the son of a Scottish grocer who became a retailing star, lost not one but two jobs. Within days of resigning as chairman of Broad Street, the City public relations firm, he stepped aside as head of Lowndes Queensway, the furniture group that was being assembled even as the consumer boom was running out of steam.

This month Lowndes Queensway folded with debts of about £300 million. Sir Phil Harris, who

sold the business to Gulliver's buyout vehicle only two years ago for £450 million at a personal profit of £69 million, was enjoying the sunshine in the south of France on board his 98ft yacht when news broke of LG's collapse.

Tom Duxbury's abrupt departure after 30 years at Magnet, the troubled kitchen furniture group, followed closely. He joined the

'My aim was to run a successful plc by the time I was 35, having made a million'

famly joinery business in 1960 and was the leading figure behind the £629 million management buyout of the company in 1989. Within six months the buyout ran into serious financial problems and Duxbury was shown the door, after being paid £125,000 in compensation.

In May the retailing knight, Sir Terence Conran, threw in the towel at Storehouse, the BHS and Mothercare combine he created. The company's dismal financial performance and institutional

pressure for change had made his departure inevitable. But it must have hurt Sir Terence to have been asked to pay £3.5 million for Storehouse's design business, which he set up in 1956, and the Conran Shop in Chelsea. He must surely have thought it was worth more than that.

Last month Sir Terence sold most of his Storehouse shares at 118.5p each, realising £23 million. They once traded at three times that level, valuing his holding at more than £100 million.

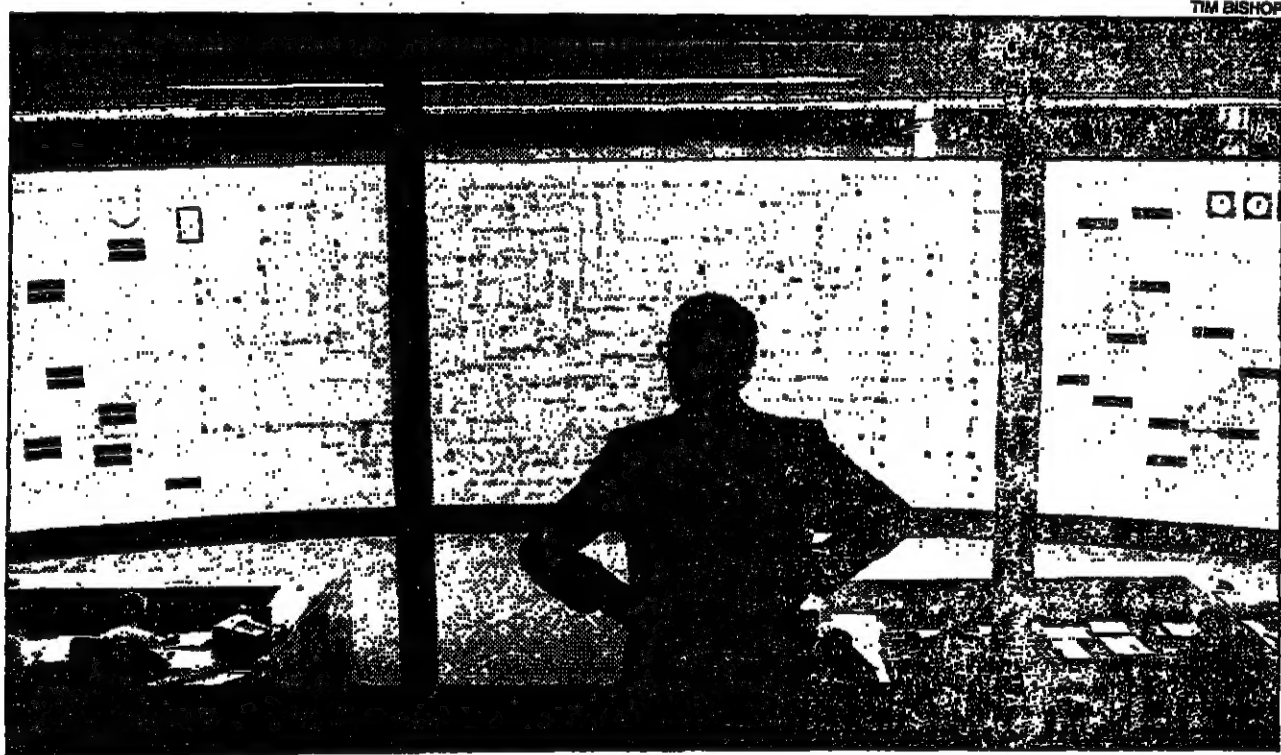
Sophie Mirman, the former typist who founded Sock Shop, was left with even less to show for her troubles. When Sock Shop went into liquidation her 80 per cent stake was declared worthless, even though the company's title was snapped up by a City-backed consortium and still hangs over 85 shops around the country. The shares had been 50 times over-subscribed when they were offered for sale at 230p in May 1987.

A Goldberg, the Glasgow fashion retailer, was founded in 1908 and had seen a recession or two in its day. But Mark Goldberg, the chairman, representing the founding family's third generation at the helm, was forced to call in the receivers in June. Goldberg had spent much of the previous 12

months fighting off the unwelcome attentions of Charterhall and Blacks Leisure which bid £32 million, only to have to concede defeat to high interest rates.

The family's sole consolation was that Russell Goward, the former Bondi Beach lifeguard who was the driving force behind Charterhall, was forced to put his Westmead investment vehicle into liquidation five months before Goldberg. Westmead owned 60 per cent of Charterhall and during the late Eighties led the British company on a spending spree, acquiring Corah, Tandem Shoes and Textured Jersey. Goldberg was the one that got away.

There was an abrupt end to the turbulent three-year relationship between Air Group and Murray Gordon, its chairman, who occupied a similar position at the old Combined English Stores group taken over by Next. Air incurred the wrath of shareholders after notching up a deficit of £4.3 million after tax in 1989, but the last straw came when Gordon forced through the sale of the loss-making Lextertan subsidiary to its management for £1 despite widespread opposition. One week after the sale was approved at a rowdy extraordinary general meeting, Gordon resigned.



The generation game: inside the National Grid control centre on London's south bank

National Grid waits silently in line for power privatisation

SOMETHING like 20 million people this Bank Holiday Monday will prize themselves away from the evening feature film, notice the gathering gloom outside, switch on the lights and head off to make a cup of tea.

The man charged with ensuring that the lights work and the kettle boils is John Lowen, national control manager for the National Grid Company at its London control centre, close to the moth-balled Bankside power station on the south bank of the Thames.

The centre matches supply with demand throughout the electricity network in England and Wales. It is also the closest thing the National Grid has to a physical base from which to operate the complex pool system, in existence since March 31.

The problems of managing this power pool are enormous. July 4 this year may have marked the extinction of hopes of an England World Cup victory, but it also led to the biggest surge in demand the National Grid has had to cope with, and therefore, a triumph for control centre staff.

As Mr Lowen recalls, July 4 did not match the pattern of

previous power surges when the end of a favourite television programme is followed by an immediate jump in demand. Instead, there was a three- or four-minute delay between the final penalty and the demand for an extra 2,800 megawatts, equivalent to about 2.8 million electric fires.

"I think people were just sitting in their seats, pole-axed after the penalty shoot-out," he says.

The power pool market is the main plank in the government's efforts to introduce true competition into electricity generation.

It is often described as a spot market in which the various stations on the network are invited to say how much they will charge for their electricity at a given period the following day.

The centre's job is to ensure that the stations offering the keenest prices are generating at the right time. The issue is complicated by limitations on the amount of power that can be shifted round the grid without creating an overload.

of talking about the time last month when electricity was in effect being given away. Low demand during a stifling summer night meant the prices on offer from generators dropped to the actual cost of generation. Only the existence of surplus capacity from French nuclear stations prevented the political embarrassment of seeing the French national grid helping itself to free English power via the cross-Channel link.

In the event, only the Scottish industry, still a vertically-integrated monopoly, and the National Grid-owned Dinorwig pumped-storage power station in North Wales, which is operated as a free-standing profit centre, took advantage of the low prices.

That night, something of an aberration, is regarded by National Grid staff as part of the normal learning curve in operating the new market. The intervening invasion of Kuwait and the soaring oil price suggest it may not recur.

Dinorwig is there to cope with unusual load fluctuations. When excess power is available in the system, Dinorwig uses it to pump water uphill. That water then provides hydro-electric power when demand rises. Other

power stations shut down automatically when there is excess supply. National Grid is seen as the Cinderella of the electricity privatisation programme. Its shares will not be floated but instead split between the 12 distributors in proportion to the value of their assets. No one distributor can own more than 15 per cent.

National Grid's management makes little secret of its desire to seek a quiet. Until that happens though, it will remain in the invidious position of being neither government-owned nor privatised, and being treated as a cash cow by its shareholders.

In the orgy of corporate promotion in the run-up to the public flotation of the distributors, National Grid has been keen not to be left out. But its three-week advertising campaign is restricted to up-market cinemas, there being no pressing need to tell. Perhaps more significantly, in sharp contrast to offerings from the rest of the industry, its campaign features a montage of images and music, but no words whatsoever. For the moment, National Grid has little to say.

MARTIN WALLER

Another golden age dawns for the package holiday

THE flood of brochures for next summer's package holidays will start filling up the travel agency shelves this week, with the leading tour operators aiming to bring off again what they have almost certainly managed to achieve this summer — the best profits for years, on volumes down by about a fifth.

"We are entering the second golden age of tour operating in terms of profitability," said Harry Goodman, chairman of International Leisure Group, which includes Intasun.

During the lean years for package holidays, Mr Goodman has been building up his Air Europe airline into a scheduled as well as charter carrier.

ILG, the second largest tour operator, and Thomson, the market leader, account for well over half the package holiday market between them. Close on ILG's heels is Owners Abroad, which includes Falcon and which by stages is acquiring Redwing.

Thomson holiday operations, part of the Canada-based Thomson Corporation, is likely to be back in profit this year, if only a modest one, after the losses of the previous year, said Charles Newbold, managing director for tour operations including Thomson Holidays.

"We feel very positive about the future. We are about to go into our best period ever," he said.

What has made the difference this summer is that the industry cut capacity by about a fifth. There was a little discounting as sales slackened during June but supply since then has lagged behind demand thus ensuring full brochure prices for all holidays. Very few September holidays are still unsold.

Mr Newbold said: "As an industry we probably got capacity about right. Families hit by mortgage interest increases largely account for those who have dropped out of the market, but the trend otherwise has been towards a better class of holiday."

Allowing for inflation, the amount paid to Thomson for each holiday has been up about 10 per cent on average, reflecting this shift towards



Putting quality first: clockwise from top, Vic Fattah, Charles Newbold and David Crossland

higher-priced packages. "People want quality. They are getting more choosy," Mr Newbold said.

It would be surprising if Thomson and ILG did not stick at about the same trimmed volumes next summer with prices probably up in line with inflation. Profit margins might approach 2 per cent instead of hovering around 1 per cent or less.

At Airtours, the fourth largest tour operator, David Crossland, the chairman, expects to carry at least as many holidaymakers next summer as this, with market growth of up to 5 per cent adding to the volume. Airtours has benefited from being strongly

based in the North of England, where the mortgage-payment problem has not hit disposable income as badly as in the South and where the economic slowdown has not been as great.

In the wake of recent charter airline closures, Airtours is to start its own airline by next May to ensure seats for 60 per cent of its summer programme. "I am not interested in moving into scheduled flying," Mr Crossland said.

The joker in the pack for the tour operators is aviation fuel costs, pushed up by the Middle East troubles.

Thomson, which is fully hedged for virtually all its fuel needs next summer, has said it will bring in no fuel surcharges. ILG has given a similar undertaking for its early-booking brochures although it will review the situation at Christmas.

Smaller operators and those relying on scheduled flights — typically for long-haul destinations — are more likely to pass on higher fuel costs.

On a typical £300 holiday round the Mediterranean the flight cost is about a third of the total, with £50 normally down to the fuel cost.

So far the impact of the Middle East has not shown up in bookings. Likely to be affected by increased tension are destinations like Israel, Cyprus and Turkey. But, except in the case of some specialist operators, probably only about 5 per cent of turnover is potentially affected.

Vic Fattah, head of Redwing, said: "We are waiting to see if the Gulf situation is going to inhibit people on October bookings. But the signs are that bookings are holding up with a trend perhaps for people to go more to the western end of the Mediterranean."

Some in the industry believe the Gulf troubles could also give another lift to long-haul holidays, which are continuing to account for a growing share of the package holidays market, standing now at more than 10 per cent. Price stability will help.

DEREK HARRIS
Industrial Editor

BUSINESS

MONDAY AUGUST 27 1990

City Editor
John BellCBI says
failures
will growBy GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS failures, particularly among small firms, are likely to rise further from the record level in the second quarter and may not peak until early 1992, a report by the Confederation of British Industry forecasts.

But the rate of company formations has recovered after a small dip last year and is still running at almost ten times the rate of liquidations in the first half of 1990.

In a special study, James Walsh, an independent economist, says that small firms are vulnerable as creditors to the collapse of other firms, including big retail groups. They are also put at risk from late payment of bills, due to their small capital base.

In the second quarter, receiverships rose by 123 per cent from a year earlier. Liquidations, which rose by 19 per cent, but lag several quarters behind receiverships, have not yet reached their peak of five years ago.

Mr Walsh says that, due to the much larger number of companies now in existence, the failure rate is still well below the level resulting from the 1980-81 recession, but the high rate of insolvencies could affect confidence.

The report says that manufacturers are better prepared for the downturn than services, retailing and construction, which will continue to bear the brunt.

Icarus effect, page 35

Distributors'
Grid stakes
'may be sold'

UP to three of the 12 electricity distribution companies heading for privatisation this autumn are believed to be considering selling their stakes in National Grid Company after they have joined the stock market.

None is likely to be hurried into a sale, but disposals would raise the prospect of a full quote for National Grid, which is owned jointly by the 12. This would run counter to the government's plans for selling off the electricity industry.

Any stakes in National Grid that come on to the market must at first be offered to the other distributors, but there is a 15 per cent limit on the amount any one shareholder can own.

Sources close to the electricity sale suggest one way the companies may choose to maximise the value of their holdings is to arrange for a stock market listing for the National Grid.

Waiting in line, page 35

Opec set to discuss quotas as shortage fears mount

By MARTIN BARROW

AN INFORMAL meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which began in Vienna yesterday, is likely to develop into a full session with the power to increase production quotas and alleviate fears of a severe shortage of oil.

Iraq is not represented at the meeting, but Kuwait has sent a delegation headed by finance minister Sheikh Ali al-Khalifa al-

Sabah, a former oil minister and a member of the deposed ruling family. Saudi Arabia is expected to swing opposition to a full emergency meeting in its favour, arguing that a decision must be taken soon to avoid a shortage when winter stockpiling in the northern hemisphere begins next month.

The prospect of a meeting is likely to stall any further advance in the price of oil when the New York market opens today. On Friday, October crude ended down

\$1.02 to \$30.91 a barrel in America, and October Brent slipped 70 cents to \$30.10 in London.

Opec ministers were summoned by Sadek Boussena of Algeria, the cartel's president, to consider Saudi Arabia's plea for an emergency session to sanction plans to pump more oil to compensate for the loss of four million barrels per day from Iraq and Kuwait.

At least ten of Opec's 13 members are represented in Vienna. Saudi Arabia joined in after showing

initial reluctance because it feared the meeting had been packed against it. Mr Boussena is believed to be in regular contact with Issam Abdulrahman al-Chalabi, the Iraqi oil minister.

Saudi Arabia is seeking Opec approval to increase its output of 5.5 million barrels by two million bpd. It is supported by Venezuela and the United Arab Emirates. But there is opposition to higher quotas from other members, Iran and Algeria want industrial nations

to alleviate supply fears by drawing from strategic and commercial stocks, while Libya supports Iraq.

However, they fear that Saudi Arabia could increase production unilaterally and limit Opec's influence on the Gulf crisis.

Hisham Nazer, the Saudi oil minister, believes Opec must reach a decision in Vienna if it is to convince industrial nations that it wishes to achieve price stability. He is expected to argue that because oil takes up to 50 days

from wellhead to petrol pumps, supply decisions for the final quarter should be taken now.

Energy analysts estimate that demand for oil from Opec during the fourth quarter will average 25 million bpd, compared with current output of 19 million barrels, without Iraq and Kuwait.

Mr Boussena said he thought Opec would have to act to make up lost supply if real shortages are threatened, provided the West helped by drawing on its stocks.

Lloyd's could
face \$700m
Kuwait claims

By NEIL BENNETT AND PHILIP ROBINSON

THE Lloyd's of London insurance market is being threatened by a possible claim of more than \$700 million from Kuwait Airways and other airlines over the Iraqi invasion.

The claim would throw aviation underwriters into heavy losses for the second year in a row.

Higher insurance premiums for aircraft flying to or via the Gulf are also likely to lead to big increases in fares on a reduced number of flights after a meeting of the International Air Transport Association this week.

Kuwait Airways lost 12 aircraft, including eight Airbus, as well as spares and equipment worth an estimated \$672 million, when Iraq took over the country's airport on August 2. The airlines' location is unknown, but some are reported to have been flown to Baghdad.

Other aircraft at risk since the invasion include a British Airways Boeing 747, a Boeing 707 belonging to Middle East Airlines and a Boeing 727 from Royal Air Maroc at the airport, all insured through

Lloyd's aviation underwriting syndicates.

None of the airlines will claim until the situation becomes clearer, but if the aircraft are not recovered, or are destroyed, they are covered under war risks policies. Lloyd's will suffer a large proportion of the loss, but the planes would have been re-insured internationally.

The size of the claim will push airline insurers worldwide into a loss. The global premium for aircraft insurance this year is expected to be \$350 million, less than half the expected claim.

Last year, the industry suffered its worst loss for many years when a succession of disasters produced claims of \$1.5 billion, against premiums of only \$350 million.

Passenger services are being hit by extra insurance charges of up to \$100 per passenger. Lufthansa, the German carrier, has imposed surcharges of up to DM320 (£107) on flights into the region. KLM, the Dutch airline, is also considering surcharges. KLM has cut daily flights through the Gulf from 20 to two.

Singapore Airways and

other operators have also cut flights while British Airways is among those arranging alternative routes for through flights. IATA meets formally this week after an informal meeting of leading airlines flying to the region last week. Prices are expected to rise by seven to 15 per cent.

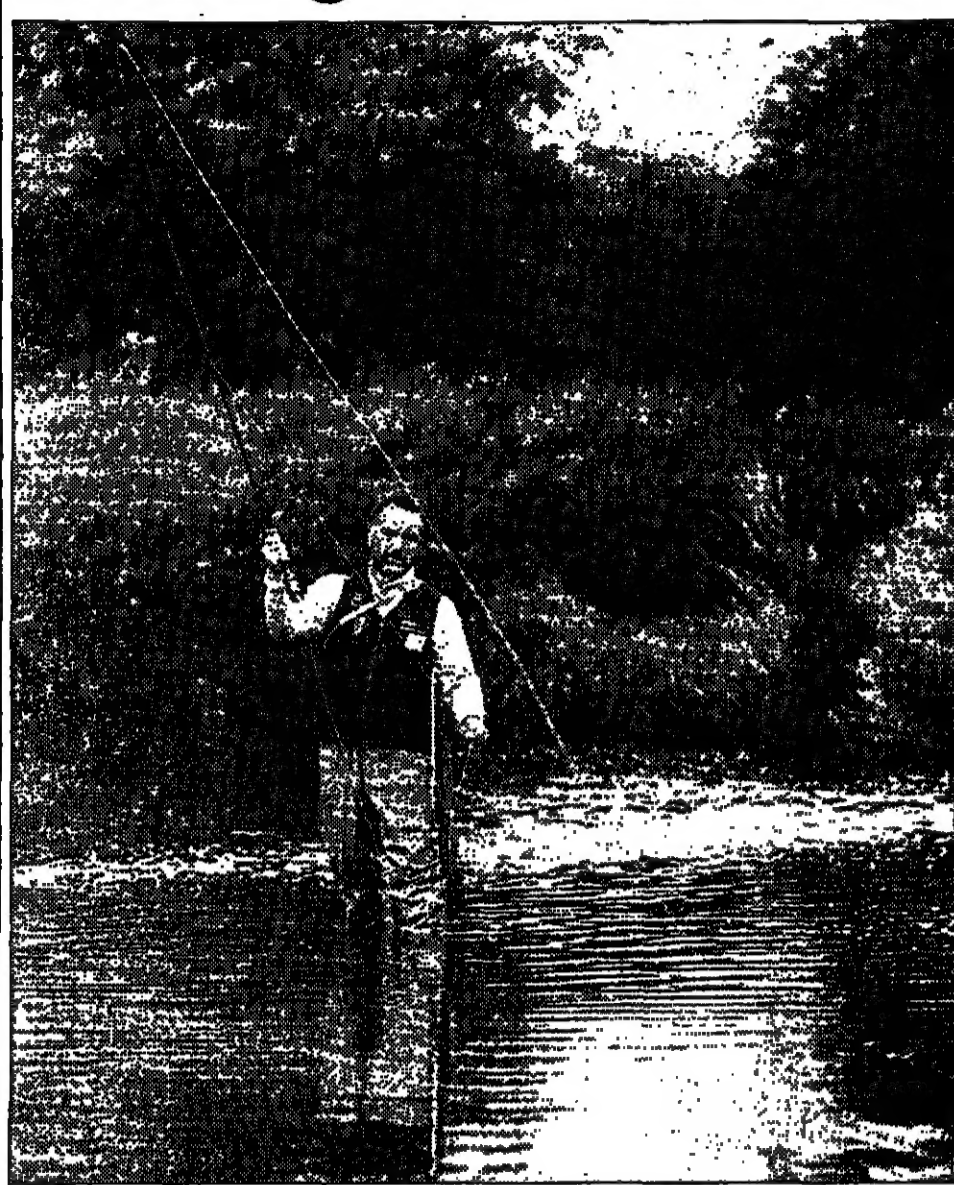
In the short term, Lloyd's underwriters are profiting from the airlift of American troops into Saudi Arabia, as are 16 American airlines. They are likely to share at least \$30 million for the work. Many are being insured through Lloyd's with underwriters quoting a year's normal premium for seven days' cover.

The underwriters are offering hull insurance on a per flight basis, while rates double if the aircraft spends more than five hours in Saudi Arabia. The United States Military Airlift Command said last week it is already using between 15 and 20 wide-bodied aircraft a day since it put stage one of the civil reserve air fleet programme into operation allowing it to requisition up to 38 planes.

All are either 747, DC10, L10-11 or DC8, of which 17 are passenger aircraft with an average capacity of 400, and the rest cargo. A spokesman for Airlift Command said the airlines are paid 10.82 cents per passenger per mile. So far it is estimated the airlines have shared over \$18 million.

This is based on an assumption that 15 of the 20 daily flights are passenger aircraft, each carrying 400 men 7,000 miles between mid-America and Saudi Arabia at 10.82 cents per passenger mile for each of the past four days.

Tackling a £115m catch



Hooked on angling: Chris Aylett, chairman of Angling Trade Association, in action

THE popularity of angling, Britain's biggest participant sport, should see British tackle makers pull in a record £115 million in sales this year with an exports surge offsetting a slowing in domestic growth, (Derek Harris writes).

Last year sales amounted to £100 million according to the Angling Trade Association. A 10-15 per cent rise is forecast this year by Chris Aylett, the association's chairman and chairman and managing director of Tackle Sales, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

The sales growth is benefiting companies like Japan's Daiwa that manufactures fishing rods in Scotland, in fly lines Masterline and Shakespeare, and in fly reels Youngs of Redditch and Hardy at Alnwick, Northumberland, as well as the largest fishing reel maker, British Fly Reels of Falmouth, Cornwall, whose brands include Leeds.

Live bait, mainly maggots and worms, brings in £40 million in sales with about half being exported. Tackle exports are up 12 per cent this year accounting for about a fifth of tackle sales. Mr Aylett

said: "The traditional style of British coarse fishing using rods with reels, compared to the continentals' long poles without reels, is becoming increasingly popular in Europe. About 80 per cent of our exports are now going to the Continent."

There are about two million coarse fishers in Britain, half the total of those who go fishing on river, lake, reservoir or at sea. Fly fishing is a fast-growing sport, now attracting about one million participants, of which a quarter are estimated to be women.

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State bank
to be
partly sold

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE Australian government will partly privatise the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, the state-owned commercial banking business, to help pay for the State Bank of Victoria, which it has agreed to buy for Aus\$1.6 billion (£717 million) two days before Victoria has to announce its budget.

Victoria, which approved the sale at a special parliamentary meeting, will also receive an Aus\$400 million compensation package from the federal government, raising the total value of the deal to Aus\$2 billion. Westpac Banking, the underbidder, offered Aus\$1.66 billion.

The sale follows the collapse of the state bank's merchant banking subsidiary, Tricontinental, with losses of Aus\$1.5 billion. This is not included in the deal.

About 30 per cent of Commonwealth Bank is likely to end up in private hands.

RPI link considered for
Channel 3 licence bids

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE government is considering an amendment to the broadcasting bill that would link the cash element of bids for Channel 3 licences to the retail price index. This would discourage applicants from overbidding for the franchises.

Annual franchise payments would be index-linked over the 12-year franchise period, enabling bidders to make more viable business projections.

"It is reasonable to ask Channel 3 applicants to make business judgments about their future share of national advertising revenue, but their assumptions as to the UK inflation rate over the next 12 years will have a much greater effect on the bid price they offer," said Alan Marmion, a broadcasting consultant with Price Waterhouse.

Recent reports by SO Warburg, the merchant bank, and Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the accountants, suggest that the present uncertainty surrounding the applicants' revenue projections means that several successful applicants will be overbid.

"The cost to the optimist of getting it wrong may be takeover or bankruptcy; the cost to the Treasury will be a loss of revenue; and the cost to the viewer will be lower-quality programming. The winner's curse is that no one wins," said Simon Albury, of the Campaign for Quality Television, which is lobbying the Treasury and Home Office for the amendment.

Earl Ferrers, the government's broadcasting representative in the House of Lords, said he is actively considering the amendment. It is also not yet clear what proportion of the bid will be based on share of national advertising revenue as opposed to the cash element.

There must be no restrictions or quotas anywhere in the world if the film, television, cable, newspaper and book publishing industries are to prosper, Steven J Ross, chairman of Time Warner, said yesterday.

He was speaking to British television executives, programme producers and regulators at the Edinburgh International Television Festival.

"We intend to continue championing the free flow of ideas, products and technologies in the spirit of fair competition," Mr Ross said. He plans to build Time Warner, which is already the biggest media and entertainment empire in the world, into the most profitable.

Mr Ross said that the only companies that would succeed in what has become a global marketplace were those that recognised no territorial borders. Joint ventures and co-productions were the key to international success.

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More loss
at BAT's
German
subsidiary

HORTEN, the West German retail store group 51 per cent owned by BAT Industries, made a loss of DM24 million (DM14 million) in the six months ended June.

Horten's turnover fell from DM1.16 billion to DM1.12 billion as trading conditions continued to be difficult, although higher sales and earnings are expected in the second half. Horten's management board said it expected to make a profit in the full financial year, with the second half traditionally stronger for department store groups.

Negotiations with various parties for the sale of BAT's 51 per cent Horten stake are "still taking place".

BAT's results for the six months ended June are due in ten days.

Dan-Air trouble
speeds new deals

PROBLEMS at Dan-Air, which is seeking a partner to secure its long-term future, have revived talk of restructuring at Air Europe. Despite the downturn in the holiday sector, Air Europe has emerged relatively unscathed as a result of its close ties with Intasun, Britain's second largest tour operator, both are owned by Harry Goodman's International Leisure Group.

Intasun is believed to account for about 25 per cent of Dan-Air's charter traffic, but as demand for holidays in European resorts has fallen more business has been switched to Air Europe. Air Europe, another Dan-Air customer, has announced plans to form its own airline.

New ground age, page 35

Loss 'to double'

BRITISH Coal is expected to disclose losses of more than £500 million for the 1989-90 financial year this week, double last year's deficit. The results, due to be published in July, were delayed when the European Commission requested more information about government plans to write off accumulated debts and liabilities of more than £6 billion ahead of the proposed privatisation of the industry.

Creditors meet

CREDITORS of Parkfield Group, the entertainment and engineering conglomerate put into administration last month, will meet for the first time on Friday. About 11,000 creditors are owed a total of £305 million, according to the administrators at Cork Gully. About £140 million is owed to the company's bankers.

THE POUND

CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar 1.9440 (+0.0255)
W German mark 3.0298 (+0.0587)
Exchange index 97.0 (+1.7)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1616.8 (-82.1)
FT-SE 100 2086.4 (-90.5)
New York Dow Jones 2532.92 (-111.88)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 24165.76 (-2620.95)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.44	2.23
Austria Sch	22.10	20.20
Belgium Fr	65.00	61.00
Canada \$	7.45	7.08
Denmark Kr	12.06	11.38
France Fr	7.45	7.08
Germany DM	10.54	9.94
Greece Dr	3145	2865
Italy Lira	15.75	14.85
Japan Yen	163.60	153.60
Netherlands Gld	20.30	19.30
Norway Kr	12.21	11.51
Portugal Esc	200.48	181.50
Spain Ptas	166.36	153.60
Sweden Kr	11.55	10.97
Switzerland Fr	2.00	1.93
UK £	2.00	1.93
USA \$	2.00	1.93
Yugoslavia Dnr	25.50	19.50

Rates for small denomination bank only as published by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 128.8 (July)

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Film concern faces Virgin music

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN LOS ANGELES

FOUR separate legal actions are lining up against a Los Angeles film company that owes \$20 million to Standard Chartered Bank and Richard Branson's Virgin Group.

Management Company Entertainment Group (MCEG), which made the hit *Look Who's Talking*, is also 20 per cent owned by Virgin. The film company has defaulted on one \$1.4 million junk bond payment, is publicly arguing over individual management performances, has missed a deadline to restructure \$72.5 million of debt, is being sued by a former director for wrongful dismissal, by a group of shareholders for alleged misleading statements and a set of creditors who want it pushed into

bankruptcy. MCEG has also filed a report with police alleging 24 former employees walked off with \$30,000 of equipment. In the past few months, staff have been cut from 150 to 30.

The latest to sue is Rogers & Cowan, the public relations firm that is part of the UK Shandwick group, for \$150,000 in fees and advertising costs for work on three films.

MCEG's shares, trading at \$3 in May, closed on Friday at 50 cents, valuing the loss-making company at just over \$13 million. A spokeswoman refused to comment on any of the lawsuits, but said: "All I can tell you is the company is still examining all its options."

The company was due to have completed the reorganisation of \$72.5 million worth of loans on August 15, 12 days ago,

but it has said nothing since that deadline passed. The debt was originally advanced by the Kidder Peabody, the stockbroker, as a bridging loan when MCEG paid Mr Branson \$83 million a year ago for Virgin Vision, the film and video-distribution division of his company.

Control of the loan has since passed to the financial services arm of Kidder's parent company, General Electric, which is demanding it be restructured.

A key part of those negotiations was that Standard Chartered, owed \$10 million, and Virgin, owed \$9.75 million, convert all their debt into equity. There has been no announced agreement since talks began more than two months ago.